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Thursday, February 13, 2025

Otsego Hall of Fame welcomes three newest members

The Otsego Athletic Boosters welcomed the three newest members into its Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, Feb., between the girls and boys varsity basketball games.

The Class of 2025 included Jesse Blanchard, Charity (Knight) Newby and Jessica (Sheen) Strickler.

A ceremony to honor the inductees took place at center court, with each inductee receiving a plaque. They were treated to a private reception prior to the ceremony.

Hall of Fame honors are presented every two years from the Athletic Department and Otsego Athletic Boosters.

Here is a closer look at this year's Hall of Fame members:

(From left) Charity (Knight) Newby, Jessica (Sheen) Strickler and Jesse Blanchard were inducted into the Otsego Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, Feb. 7. (Photo provided)

Jesse Blanchard

Blanchard was a decorated athlete who earned 10 varsity letters across four sports: wrestling, football, tennis and track & field. The 2002 graduate served as captain in wrestling, football and tennis.

Despite success in all sports, he racked up the most honors for his time on the mat.

Blanchard set a school record for wins in a season with 50 during his junior year and played a key role in leading the wrestling team to a state championship that same year, 2001. (The 2001 Wrestling Team was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020.)

Blanchard competed at the Individual State Finals both his junior and senior years, earning runner-up honors as a senior. He finished his career with 133 win, including 71 via pin.

Blanchard also excelled in the classroom, as he was named Academic All-State as a senior.

After high school, Blanchard was a part of the Grand Valley State University Wrestling Club and has been a youth wrestling and football coach in Otsego for more than a decade. He was named regional assistant coach of the year for wrestling in 2012.

Blanchard's leadership and guidance as a coach also earned him the Outstanding People for Education award for Otsego in 2020.

Currently, Blanchard is an assistant coach for both wrestling and football at OHS and is an active contributor when it comes to Otsego athletics and the Otsego community. He and his wife Brandy now own B&C Trophy, working with area schools in various ways.

They have two children, Grace (a 2024 OHS graduate) and Lane (OHS Class of 2026).

Charity (Knight) Newby

Newby was a standout four-year, three-sport athlete and graduated in the Top 10 of her class of 2005. She played varsity all four years in basketball, volleyball and softball, earning a number of individual honors including All-Conference, All-County, All-District and All-Region.

Newby was part of a Wolverine Conference championship team in each of her three sports and was a district champion in volleyball and basketball. Her volleyball team won a regional title and was state runner-up.

Additionally, Newby was named Second Team All-State from the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Class B in her sophomore, junior and senior years.

Newby still holds numerous school records in basketball: points in a season (482); points in a career (1,471); assists in a season (171); assists in a career (567); steals in a season (133); and steals in a career (464); as well as free throw percentage (81 percent).

A 7-time team captain in her various sports, Newby was also involved with the student council and National Honor Society.

Graduating at the top of her class meant Newby also earned a number of scholar-athlete awards, including the coveted MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award in 2005. She was also named Academic All-American for basketball and softball.

Newby played basketball in college at Lake Superior State University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College before transferring to Western Michigan University to complete her bachelor's degree in Family Studies/Child Development. She and her husband Chad have four children, all who attend Otsego Public Schools.

Newby enjoys coaching her children, vacationing with family and substitute teaching at OPS. She would like to thank her siblings—Ben, Nicole,

see Hall of Fame, Page A10

Plainwell MS Honors Choir performs at state conference

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GRAND RAPIDS—When Plainwell Middle School choir director Rachel Quillian applied to have her Honors Choir perform at the Michigan Music Conference, she wasn't sure what to expect.

"It's usually high school choirs that perform at the conference, so we weren't sure how much of a chance we had of being accepted," Quillian said.

And while the odds didn't seem to be in their favor, members of the PMS Honors Choir were indeed selected and performed at the conference.

The other three choirs chosen to perform were all high schools: Caledonia; Walled Lake Northern; and H.H. Dow.

The experience had quite the impact on Quillian and her students.

"I think this is something the kids will remember for the rest of their lives," Quillian said. "It is a performance that only a few choirs get to experience each year. And even though they love singing on their home stage in the Plainwell Performing Arts Center, it was a completely different experience performing for a packed audience of musicians and music teachers.

"This was a wonderful challenge, and it was a joy for me to see these seventh and eighth graders rise to the occasion."

Music educators from around Michigan were in attendance at the performance, which took place at the J.W. Marriott in downtown Grand Rapids.

"Many of my friends and colleagues in the choir field were impressed by how strong and clear their sound was and how expressive the singers were," Quillian said of the reaction to her choir's performance.

"People also commented on how the choir really held its own in comparison to the high school choirs. People in the audience also enjoyed the variety of the repertoire."

According to Quillian, former West Ottawa choir director Pam Pierson deserves a special "thank you." It was Pierson, after all, who suggested that Quillian apply for the opportunity for the PMS choir to perform at the conference.

"After our (Michigan School Vocal Music Association) State Choral Festival performance last year, Pam suggested that we apply," Quillian said. "I hadn't even thought about it before she brought it up, but I am so grateful she mentioned something."

To apply, Quillian had to submit three recordings of the choir and general information including the age group, name of the choir and voicing.

"It was very exciting news to receive this summer that we were chosen for this honor," Quillian said.

According to Quillian, one member of the PMS choir commented on how the experience taught her the importance of being confident, while another noted that it was "nerve-wracking but super exciting."

"It was just an amazing experience for our kids," Quillian said.

Next up for the PMS Honors Choir is a pre-festival concert on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Plainwell Performing Arts Center along with the rest of the PMS choirs.

Then, each choir will perform for the MSVMA District Choral Festival in March.

"In addition, Honors Choir will likely perform for the MSVMA State Choral Festival at Hope College sometime in May," Quillian said.

The PMS Honors Choir's final performance of the year will be the spring concert on Wednesday, May 28, and will feature Disney, Broadway and pop tunes.

Members of the Plainwell Middle School Honors Choir were all smiles after performing at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. (Photos provided)

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Wayland's Between the Buns competition winners announced

By Gari Voss

During January, the Between the Buns Competition in Wayland encouraged residents and visitors to frequent Wayland's local eateries and partake of their special handheld sandwiches. Customers enjoyed the sandwiches and voted for their favorites.

While Downtown Wayland was encouraging the public to frequent the wonderful restaurants around Wayland, the goal was to fight hunger. At the end of the month, each business donates $1 for each handheld sold. The proceeds will be given to the Hand to Hand program which is available in 278 different schools around West Michigan.

The exact total collected has yet to be calculated, but thus far, there were about 800 votes cast. There were probably additional customers who enjoyed the sandwiches but did not cast votes.

Russo's Gun Lake and Hopkins created the Russo's Italian Beef Sandwich. Thin tender slices of roast beef simmered in Italian seasoned au jus was served on a grilled hoagie bun with provolone cheese then topped with giardiniera along with a side of parmigiana fries. Votes were cast by customers. The top five vote getters went before the judges who picked the best of the best. $1 of each special handheld sold goes to Hand to Hand that furnishes food to school-age children in SW Michigan.

The top sandwiches receiving votes went before the judges on Friday, February 7, 2025, who were asked to select the Best of the Best.

Most Popular: Russos, Gun Lake and Hopkins - Italian Beef Sandwich

Judges' Selection: Gun Lake and Hopkins - Italian Beef Sandwich

Second: Sand Bar & Grill - Fried Gr een Tomato B.L.T.

Third: Curley Cone - Philly Beef Grilled Cheese

Fourth: Wayland Hotel - Absolutely Money – Smoked Burnt End Brisket

Fifth: McDuff's Bar & Grill - The Great Loafer

Holli McPherson, Executive Director of Wayland Main Street/DDA and sandwich judge, shared, "We took the top (5) vote getters and spent the day reviewing them for the winner. It was not easy."

Dr. Hodge named to fill vacancy of Board of Optometry

An Allegan-based eye doctor may soon be part of overseeing those who are responsible for the vision of residents statewide.

Pending the approval by fellow Democrats who hold the majority in the state Senate, Governor Whitmer on Monday tabbed Dr. Paul Hodge of Allegan Eyecare PC to fill a vacancy on the Michigan Board of Optometry. The Ferris State University graduate is a fellow with the American Academy of Optometry and a board trustee with the Michigan Optometric Society.

Dr. Hodge would replace the departing Lisa Webb Sharpe, a Lansing Community College Foundation executive with no apparent background in optometry, on the panel to license optometrists in Michigan, along with holding disciplinary powers over those eye doctors, through the middle of 2027.

Fennville High announces Snowcoming Finalists

The Fennville Student Council proudly announced the Senior candidates for Snowcoming Queen and King. The coronation will be held Friday, February 14, 2025, during halftime of the Boys Varsity basketball game. The Snowcoming Dance will follow the Varsity Boys' basketball game from 8:30 to 11:15pm.

Fennville High School Snowcoming activities will culminate on Friday, February 14, 2024, with the crowning of the Snowcoming King and Queen during halftime of the Varsity Boys' Basketball Game. Front row: Senior Queen candidates Dasaly Herrera, Amaya Herrera, Conley Howard, and Ami Martinez-Hernandez. Back row: Senior King Candidates Daymien Logsdon, Bryan Ramirez, Armando Garcia, and Emmanuel Salinas-Bahena. Photo: Jocelyn Leonard

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Ascension Borgess Allegan

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Valentine's Day: Couples tell how they met

By Cindy Sasser

Tomorrow is Valentines Day! I'm sure couples all over Allegan County are planning to celebrate it in various ways. I thought it would be interesting to learn how some people met and became couples. Valentine's Day has evolved from ancient traditions to a modern celebration of love and romance, with various ways people celebrate it. But the real share is how they came together. The opening scene of the love story.

We've come a very long way and Valentine's Day traditions have changed a lot. The ways people come together have changed a lot! Today, it's more about personal connections; we now celebrate not only romantic relationships but also friendships, family bonds, and self-love.

In ancient Roman history, according to History.com, Britannica, and Wikipedia, people came together through the Feast of Lupercal (one of a few beliefs about the origin of Valentines Day). The holiday's roots can be traced back to ancient Rome, where a festival called Lupercalia was celebrated from February 13th to 15th. This festival involved the sacrifice of a goat and a dog, then a feast, followed by the men running around naked and whipping women with strips of these animals hides as they believed it would make them more fertile. "The men randomly chose a woman to be coupled with for the duration of the festival. Often, the couple stayed together until the following year's festival. Many fell in love and married." The celebration was also marked by a lot of drinking and debauchery.

While that's a very interesting way to meet your partner, I'm glad things have evolved a little, aside from the drinking and debauchery. According to information from the internet, recent studies show the most common ways couples meet lately are through online dating (50%+), through friends (15%), at work (10%), at college or university (7%), at a social event or party (5%), through family (4%), at a religious or community gathering (3%), and at an animal sacrifice and streaking festival (0%).

I was told a couple of great stories from ladies in Allegan County about how they met their husbands and have been married for decades so far.

One of the sweetest stories came from Kendra and Bryan who met at a local fast-food restaurant where they both worked at the time. Kendra said, "my husband and I met thirty years ago at Hot N Now in Wyoming, MI. He worked there as then did I. We have been married for 25 years. Funny part, my parents met at McDonalds and have been married 50 years ~ fast food romances that last a life time." Love can begin in the most unexpected ways and places. Here's to many more years of happiness - Supersized!

Another great love story is that of Stacy and Jeff, who first crossed paths at the Howlin Moon Saloon. Stacy told, "My husband and I met August 17, 1995, at Howlin Moon Saloon in Grand Rapids. I still have the Howlin Moon napkin he saved with my name and number. We got married on August 18, 2000. We were wanting the 17th but you can only elope on certain days at the Wyoming courthouse. We have rarely done anything without the other over the last almost 30 years." Inseparable for 30 years…. they are truly meant to be together! Their story is the kind that makes you believe in fate, and it's clear they've built a lifetime of memories together.

Meeting someone and falling in love is truly one of life's greatest experiences. It's amazing how paths can cross in the most unexpected ways, leading to connections that change lives forever. Each story is unique, filled with serendipity, shared interests, and the joy of finding a kindred spirit. The journey and beauty of human connections.

People who don't have partners can still celebrate Valentine's Day in meaningful and enjoyable ways. It's about celebrating love in all its forms, not just romantic love. It's an opportunity to appreciate and cherish the relationships and experiences that bring happiness and fulfillment to your life.

Self-Care: Treat yourself to a spa day, a new haircut, or a relaxing bath. Indulge in activities that make you feel good and relaxed, such as reading a book, watching your favorite movies, or enjoying a delicious meal.

Spend Time with Friends and Family: Celebrate the day with friends or family members. Plan a fun outing, have a movie marathon, or enjoy a special meal together. It's a great way to share love and appreciation with those who matter to you.

Pursue Hobbies: Engage in activities you love, whether it's painting, cooking, hiking, or any other hobby. Doing something you enjoy can make the day special and enjoyable.

Being single doesn't mean a lack of love and connection. It offers the chance to cultivate deep relationships with friends, family, and yourself. It's an opportunity to explore personal passions, enrich your life, and embrace self-discovery. Which happens to be the theme of my personal blog "Two Widows & The Spinster" (I'm the Spinster). Love comes in many forms, and being single allows you to appreciate and nurture these varied connections, creating a life filled with joy, growth, and meaningful bonds.

Genetski: Audits show accuracy in November election

Allegan County officials are praising the work of local clerks and election inspectors following the results of state mandated Post Election Audits that ended Thursday. The audits included hand counts of votes on paper ballots to measure the accuracy of the totals reported by tabulators on election night, November 5th .

"We are batting a thousand in each precinct audited," reported County Clerk Bob Genetski. "The hand count of 2,198 votes matched the exact totals reported by the machines for each presidential candidate from Donald Trump on down to Jill Stein."

Under Michigan election law, Genetski's office has to conduct Post Election Audits of precincts that are randomly selected by Michigan Bureau of Elections.

The four precincts that were audited procedurally and hand counted for the November 2024 Election are: the City of Fennville (election day), City of Saugatuck (election day), City of Wayland Precinct 2 (both election day and Absent Voter Counting Board), and Laketown Township (Early In Person Voting – Precinct 1).

"I am extremely proud of the proficiency shown by our local clerks and election inspectors throughout Allegan County. Their hard work, dedication and professionalism helped 72,435 voters cast a ballot, and the accuracy of the hand counts validates their efforts," the Saugatuck Republican remarked.

Genetski noted that the audit results are not unexpected, "but they should put any voters' minds at ease regarding whether or not their votes counted."

In 2022, due to statewide recounts, a local recount and audits by the Clerk's Office, Allegan County hand counted over 14,000 ballots following the November General Election. "Of all those ballots, only one vote changed hands; we feel really good about that number," the third term Clerk remarked. "And it wasn't even a vote that changed from a 'yes' to a 'no' or from a Democratic to a Republican candidate. That voter just didn't fill in the oval dark enough, so the machine couldn't read it."

Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of Feb. 4, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!
February: Peanut Butter Drive
Deliver jars of peanut butter or money to ACCF Office in the old City Hall on Locust Allegan
Sat., Feb. 15, 2025, 11am: Gun Lake Winterfest
Gun Lake Park 2397 Patterson Rd. Wayland
Sat., Feb. 15, 2025, 8pm: Valentine Dance
Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
Sun., Feb. 16, 2025, 2-4pm: Clarke, Meadow & Reed – Free Cabin Fever Concert
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Feb. 12, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults. Drop in to have fun with friends from the ARC of Allegan County.
6pm: Bilingual Storytime. Ages 0-5 can drop in and enjoy stories & activities.

Wed., Feb. 12, 5-9pm: Chocolate Walk
Downtown Wayland 103 S. Main St. Wayland
Dive into a chocolate lover's paradise in downtown Wayland! Explore shops and eateries, each serving up their own delicious chocolate. More info at https://www.facebook.com/DowntownWayland.

Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Kids 3-5 years and caregivers can drop in to enjoy books and activities.
3:30pm: Kinetic Coasters w/ the Air Zoo. Students grades 5-8 can learn how acceleration, Law of Conservation of Energy, and potential & kinetic energy affect design of popular thrill rides. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025, 4-9pm: Valentine's BOGO
Allegan Event 439 River St. Allegan
Love is in the Air at Michigan's Largest Indoor Ropes Course. Purchase a one-hour Sky Trail® ropes course ticket and get the second one FREE! Purchase tickets at alleganevent.com.

Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Feb. 14, 2025, 10:30-11:30am: Family Fun at Aquatic Center
Allegan Aquatic Center 1560 M-40 Allegan
An hour for all ages to enjoy activities of your choice in our warm leisure pool.

Fri., Feb. 14, 2025, 5:30pm: Valentine's Day DIY
Cottage Arts & Eats Hubbard St. Allegan
Put together a charcuterie board to take home, enjoy cocktails, chocolate covered strawberries and paint some keepsake coasters! Register at https://www.facebook.com/CottageArtsandEats.

Fri., Fri. 14, 2025, 6-9pm: Pick Your Project Workshop
Board & Brush 116 Locust St. Allegan
Join our most popular DIY workshop and create your own unique wood sign! Sign up at https://boardandbrush.com/allegan/.

Fri., Feb. 14, 2024, 6:30-9:30pm: Death of a Ganster
Robinson Manor 701 Marshall St. Allegan
Be prepared to enter the world of a 1920s Mafia marriage murder mystery on Valentine's Day at Dunn Speakeasy. There will be twists and turns as diners attempt to solve the mystery. For more information & admission: https://therobinsonmanor.com/ and click Events.

Sat., Feb. 15, 2025, 11am: Gun Lake Winterfest
Gun Lake Park 2397 Patterson Rd. Wayland
Enjoy an amazing day packed with great performances, contests, and easy rides to all the fun spots. For the schedule, go to https://www.facebook.com/GunLakeWinterfestOfficial/.

Sat., Feb. 15, 2025, 8pm: Valentine Dance
Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
All are invited to a Valentine dance featuring Strum, Dumb and Dumber. Music starts at 8PM. Bring your Sweet Valentine and have a great night.

Sun., Feb. 16, 2025, 2-4pm: Clarke, Meadow & Reed
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
A Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 Concert. The concert is free. Refreshment & alcoholic beverages will be available from the City of Allegan.

Mon., Feb. 17, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Messy Munchkins. Ages 0-6 can enjoy getting created with finger paints.
6-7:30pm: Craftastic – Macrame Keychains. Register to macrame a keychain. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Tues., Feb. 18, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 age children and caregivers can drop in to enjoy stories & activities.
3:30pm: Discover 4-H. Drop in to do activities with 4-H.

Wed., Feb. 19, 2025, 1pm: Play-Doh Play Lab
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 0-7 can drop in and create with Play-Doh.

Wed., Feb. 19, 2025, 5:30pm: Pub Quiz Trivia
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team and your library card and test your knowledge!

Thurs., Feb. 20, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Kids 3-5 years and caregivers can drop in to enjoy books and activities.
3:30pm: Tween STEAM Club. Students grades 5-8 can join the new STEAM Club. Registration required at 269 673-4625.
6-7pm: Cricut for Beginners. Learn to use the Cricut machines to make a vinyl decal. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Feb. 20, 2025, 4-6pm: Third Thirsty Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
The Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce and the Allegan Jaycee's are collaborating to introduce Third Thirsty Thursdays for 2025! This exciting new event is for the movers & shakers in the Allegan area community, who are looking to network and make connections in a relaxed setting,

Thurs., Feb. 20, 2025, 6:30pm: 1st Annual Puzzle Contest
Hungry for Christ 4565 135th Ave. Allegan
Gather a team of 3-4 puzzle enthusiasts and enjoy an evening of fun & snacks. Go to Hungry for Christ Facebook page and use the QR code to register.

Thurs., Feb. 20, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Feb. 21, 2025, 8-10am: Coffee with Councilmembers
Mugshots Coffeehouse Water St. Allegan
Council Members Hooker and Walker will be available at Mugshots and invite residents to come and talk to share ideas and reflect.

Fri., Feb. 21, 2025, 6pm: Teen Tech Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Students in grades 6-12 can experience virtual reality, explore 3-D printing, and play video games. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Sat., Feb. 22, 2025, 11am: Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
All are welcome to drop in and work with Megan Heyl to hunt down and organize family history.

Mon., Feb. 24, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Craft & Snack. Bring you own craft and craft, snack & chat.
6pm: Bingo. Drop in and enjoy lively games of Bingo.

Tues., Feb. 25, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 age children and caregivers can drop in to enjoy stories & activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting. All are welcome to plan ways to support the library.
4pm: TAB - Tween Advisory Board. Students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to drop in and help plan activities.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café. Caregivers are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee while the little ones play.
4-5pm: Live Birds of Prey. Join Outdoor Discovery Center and their birds of prey. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 6-8pm: Wine & Canvas
LYNX Golf Course 700 M-89 Otsego
The Grill will be open during this event.

Thurs., Feb. 27, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Kids 3-5 years and caregivers can drop in to enjoy books and activities.
6-7pm: Historic Sewing Presentation. Drop in and join the Swordsmanship Museum & Academy for a presentation of the history of sewing.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.

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Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - abuse prevention and healing
402 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborallegan.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Hamilton Christian Reformed Church / Love INC
3596 47th St. Hamilton, 269 751-2533

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 7-9 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org, (269) 455-9452

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11am, Core and More fitness classes for all ages and all levels to improve overall health, strength and well-being will be offered at Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
Girls Troop BSA 191 (girls 11-17): Contact Sara Keen sarajkeen@gmail.com.

Senior Fitness/Fit Over 50: Fun fitness designed for ages 50-80plus!
Hicks Gym, 311 E Plainwell Street, Plainwell. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am. Drop in or call Sharrin at 269-330-3204 or email at denzgirllc@att.net.

The Fairways:
237 Hubbard St. Allegan (269) 655-5890
Get assistance with accuracy, distance, course management, club selection, or distance control. Work on a simulator, and treat it like a practice session at the course to achieve overall game improvement.

Tilt 118: Ice Cream, Pinball Machines, Food and More
Tilt 118 118 Brady St. Allegan
Pinball Leagues, Pinball Classes, Arcade Rental
Contact: Email: smalltownamusements@gmail.com; Phone: 269 720-8137

NOTE:
This Community Calendar is an opportunity for all organizations in Allegan County to post events. Please, remember to send your event information to editor@alleganews.com.

Spring is here!

With it comes fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. Let us help you keep your pets safe:

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State mandated minimum wage increases will damage small business

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

You gotta feel for small businesses. Not only are their pricing and services under attack by big box stores and internet giants from here and China, they must weave through a ton of regulations place on them by government.

The Michigan State Legislature is now getting in the act, enacting several minimum increases through 2028. In a nutshell minimum wage was increased to $10.58 an hour on January 1. Most would say "no big deal. However, on Feb. 21, just a few days from now, it will increase nearly two dollars to $12.48 an hour.

Then for the next three years annual increase will be enacted. Minimum wage becomes $13.29 on Feb. 21, 2026; $14.16 on Feb. 21, 2027; and $14.97 on Feb. 21, 2028.

Furthermore, tipped workers will see a 100 percent by 2030. On Feb 21, 2025 their rate increases to $5.99; then two more dollars in 2026, two more in 2027 and two more in 2028, so that it is $11.98 per hour.

It may be noted that the substantial increases were part of an order from the state Supreme Court, which in 2024, ruled a decision to adopt a ballot proposal as presented above was not unconstitutional.

In addition to increasing the state's minimum wage each year, the law has increased paid sick time. Small businesses, less than 10 employees must provide 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally the sick time can be accrued year after year. If you have more than 10 employees you must provide 72 hours of paid sick time per year.

Now many of us might see this as terrific news. We are going to get paid substantially more over the course of three years. BUT, at what cost? For small businesses it could be an enormous cost. Ditto to bigger businesses.

And for the employee hoping to get paid, they may find themselves in the unemployment line, because I guarantee if they don't go out of business, restaurants and shops will cutback on the number of people they employ. Some will turn to automation, eliminating employees all together because they simply can't keep up with the minimum wage increases.

Fortunately the new legislature, now controlled by Republicans, is expected to address the issue. It may be noted that the substantial increases were part of an order from the state Supreme Court, which in 2024, ruled a decision to adopt a ballot proposal as presented above was not unconstitutional.

"We've heard from countless hardworking small business owners and their dedicated employees about what this ruling would mean for them. It would be a catastrophe, said state rep, Jay DeBoyer.

DeBoyer and other conservative lawmakers have formed a committee to address these over-the-top issues. Additionally, Republicans have introduced several bills to slow down the current schedule of increases.

I hope the legislature is serious about tackling this situation. Sometimes they are more talk than action. I expect action this time around. Many of my small business friends and their employees are counting on it.

Do the Local Thing

Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

ShopLocal

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

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Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Late last year I wrote a column about Christmas cards, noting that our list was shrinking each year. Many times it was because a friend had passed away. Our card would be returned with the yellow USPS sticker that it was undeliverable and the address was unknown. Each time, it was a grim feeling. Pat would do some searching, and eventually we would learn the individual had died almost a year earlier. A couple of times we found out they had been gone far longer than that.

Each time it was a demoralizing experience. It is mentally understandable, but still, it was disheartening to know someone else was gone, and we had never heard about it.

One day, Pat looked at me and said, "I want you to promise that if I go first, you will take our Christmas card list, write a letter, and let people know." I said I would. As Robert Service wrote in the poem The Shooting of Dan McGee, "A promise made is a debt unpaid."

All too soon, the time came to honor and fulfill that promise, days after she passed away at the end of last month. The letter was written and copied and put in the mail.

There is nothing easy about doing that sort of work, but I hope you will consider just how important it is to do it.

As my favorite uncle used to say, "The mortality rate remains at a perfect 100%." He was right about that, and their passing of someone leaves a hole in our lives, maybe in most of humanity. Sometimes it almost feels easier to avoid conversations and letting people know. Each retelling of the tale is often another wound to the heart and soul. Yet, to shirk this duty is to mean their passing goes unnoticed, and that never makes things any better, only worse.

Those letters are also our chance to write something meaningful about our loved one or friend who died. In our very fractured and often angry world, people need to be inspired by good news and examples, something inspiring and encouraging, in the lives of others.

And while we are on the subject, there is something very important in remembering the old adage to take full advantage of every moment we can spend with people, because hours and minutes are not infinite. One day we run out of those moments. Sometimes, it comes far sooner than we could have imagined.

One afternoon when I lived in Canada, I ran across an old retired Regimental Sergeant Major from the nearby airbase. We talked for a few minutes, leaning against his truck in the grocery store parking lot, before he got back behind the wheel. I assumed we'd see each other in a few days. Instead, he drove straight into a light pole. He had suffered a heart attack and died with his foot on the accelerator.

Other times we are privileged to have more time, and even a long goodbye. Or, they with us. We never really do know, do we, except that there is a finite number.

Life comes to an end, and when it happens to us, somehow the world is going to manage working without our supervision. Even though the world is still ticking along, more or less as usual, people still need to know an old friend isn't around.

The writer benefits, as well. By committing thoughts and feelings to paper, they can far better appreciate the person they have lost.

At least thinking about that letter I hope you don't write for a long time, might enhance your relationship with the person who shares your life.

Getting started on that letter might enhance the relationship you share with your best bud, main squeeze, or spouse. You might find it helpful to care even more for family and friends.

I watch people, often as not to give me ideas for my writing. I've seen many couples that forget or ignore these messages about staying connected with people, especially with each other. You have seen them, too. It is not the couple who are delightfully talking with each other and sharing laughs. It might not be the couple that is having a spat because they will soon kiss and make up. Maybe.

The most tragic are the couples who are bored with each other. From across a room, you can see the apathy and boredom in their faces. Nothing kills a relationship quicker and more effectively than apathy. In time, the relationship might come to an end, and they are going to have to live with the consequences of their simply not caring hard enough to make it work.

There are a lot of 'what ifs' in that situation. What if I had said yes to going out more often? What if we had worked harder at having fun? What if we had just gotten up and off the couch to go for a walk? What if we had worked harder at taking an interest in each other or laughed.

A good friend who's husband passed away said the one thing that meant the most to her was that he always had something fun or interesting to tell her about his day. "One day," she said, "I saw his car in the driveway, but no him. A few minutes later he explained that his day was pretty boring, so he chose to walk around the block, hoping to come up with something that might make her laugh."

Time runs out, and before you must sit down to write that letter, just get to work on creating some good memories. To my way of thinking that is our life's performance art at its highest level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters unrealistic, unfounded says reader

Dear Editor:

RE: Newspaper Feb. 6th, 2025

Practicing something even if it's offensive, objectionable, … or corrupt seems normal these days. Case in point is the resurgence of opinions based on made up and wishful thinking, even UN-Truths.

The February 6th Letter to the Editor opinions are clearly based on unrealistic, unfounded, … and discredited views for Michigan voters. Someone's' reality or fitness for a job can be subjective; however, when millions of voters rejected false realities and unfitness statements gives pause to consider the Truth or Falsehood of contrived statements, opinions.

Speaking of heroes, there are many Religious Heroes; Religious Heroes are called Saints and usually are strict believers in the Ten Commandments spending their lives helping others and the community to became better and improve the Common Good. History has documented some religious practices promoting human depravity and murderous rituals: Sodom and Gomorrah and Inca human sacrifices.

It's surprising that in the 21st Century, finding Truth in Scripture is so difficult? It seems that Truth in scripture for some is illusive; as a result, other secular truths are adapted.

Reality, Fitness and Truth should be based on the best historical examples of cultural success; and, what a person studies, sees, hears and experiences for the Common Good. Of course, people have free will to make up "Whatever"!

What's your truth based on?

Phil Zamlynski

Despite DEI crackdown, Food Alliance will carry on

Dear Editor

As I was stirring a pot of chicken soup made for a friend recovering from surgery, it struck me that my love language is food. It's always been food. I'm more like my tiny, wispy, paternal grandmother, who served heaping plates of food with the strident command to, "Eat! Eat! Eat!" than I realized. And, I'm not unlike my maternal grandmother, whose generosity to her friends from Chicago during the Great Depression had a hand in keeping them alive.

Food matters. It can provide a foundation for healing, serve as a means of connecting, and offer pleasure and joy. Do we ever gather with friends and family without food present? No, because food matters.

As the executive director of the Allegan Food Alliance, a food policy council, I examine food systems through a broad lens to assess how changes in policy will impact our local community. This means considering the effects on farmers, consumers, restaurant owners, food pantry managers and participants, institutional kitchen staff, and the people they serve—students, the elderly, all of us. My job is to understand how changes in food policy will affect you.

Generally, those changes are slow, like the impact of a long drought, or spreading bird flu that causes the loss of poultry and subsequent decrease in egg numbers. But in the past two weeks, changes have been fast and furious. A federal spending freeze sparked worries about the future of programs that feed many in our communities, including school lunches, Meals on Wheels, WIC, SNAP benefits, and more. Then came news that tariffs would be levied on goods from Canada and Mexico, which could raise grocery bills. USAID was shuttered, jeopardizing markets for billions of dollars worth of corn, rice, wheat, and soybeans. What will these fast-moving changes mean for our food producers and businesses? What will they mean for us, for you?

As I tried to understand these changes, it struck me that the words diversity, equity, and inclusion have been misconstrued and weaponized. Let's look beyond the sound bites to see what they have meant for our community.

DEI programs are designed to level the playing field. One initiative, called Justice40, ensured that funds would flow to and turn less wealthy regions that have historically been marginalized and overburdened — into healthy, thriving communities.

As part of the Justice40 initiative, the entire U.S. was mapped using statistical criteria to identify and support those communities facing significant challenges. Eight burdens were assessed, including limited transportation, high unemployment, elevated poverty rates, and other factors. One of those burdens is legacy pollution, a challenge in parts of Allegan County.

Webinars were launched to guide leaders of grassroots organizations in accessing funds for program development and infrastructure improvements, with a focus on historically disadvantaged communities, which as mentioned above, includes parts of Allegan County. While some communities require minimal support, others need much more. The intention was to support diverse communities, through the equitable distribution of government funds, and the inclusion of everyone, regardless of where they live or who they are..

With the help of advocacy groups within communities and municipal governments, taxpayer funds were steered where they were most needed. Roads and bridges were repaired, new grocery stores were established in food deserts, training was given to prepare people for work, factories were built, and more. The D in DEI showed up in the diversity of projects planned and initiated, all across our country, including many in Allegan County and specifically in the city of Allegan. Watching this unfold has been deeply moving.

The E in DEI for equity reflected the intention mentioned above to bring access to good food, decent jobs, and safe and secure housing for everyone.

The I for inclusion meant no one would be left out. Instead, all Americans would have the support they need to pursue happiness.

In our hasty rejection of DEI, we may have thrown the baby out with the bath water. According to a February 7 report from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, farmers are experiencing "confusion and harm nationwide" from the federal funding freeze. Grant funds from multiple USDA programs, including EQUIP, which reimburses farmers for purchases already made, are frozen, and farmers have been left with the threat of insurmountable debt. In listening sessions we held with small and mid-sized food-producing farmers last year, they had stated unequivocally that they could not support their families on a farm income.

Nevertheless, our focus on feeding people continues, and with our partners, we're looking ahead. If tariffs or deportations impact the food available in our grocery stores, know that we have local farmers working hard to produce food for you. We have amazing librarians in nearly every corner of the county who have set up seed libraries where you can access seeds to grow your own. You can find all of this—easily on our website at alleganfoodalliance.com.

To find local food-producing farms, go to the 'Connect' mission and click the 'Find Farmers' button. This will bring up a map of diverse farms and their products, ranging from farm-fresh eggs and grass-fed beef to seasonal produce. We don't charge farmers to be included, ensuring an equitable and inclusive offering. If you know of a food producer who isn't listed, please let us know — we want to ensure everyone is represented.

Under the 'Share' mission for the 'Find Food' button, you'll find a list of the seed libraries. I can't begin to tell you of the diversity of furniture they use to hold their seeds or the variety of the seeds within and you know libraries, everyone is allowed to come in and partake of their offerings. They have this thing about fairness and inclusion.

When you think it through, diversity, equity, and inclusion are not scary. My grandmothers would laugh at the silly wordplay. They wouldn't have time for it. They'd be too busy pushing a steaming bowl of soup toward you and inviting you to eat.

Mary Coburn

Obituaries

Domingo (Don) Canales

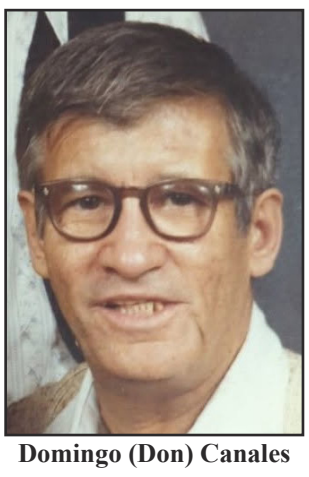
Early Thursday morning, my father, Domingo (Don) Canales, passed away.

He was born at home in Salineño, Texas to Candelario and Teresa Canales, where his family had lived for several generations after having settled there from Northern Spain, in the early 1600s. He was the oldest of 9 children (Domingo, David, Daniel, Develsa, Hector, Victor, Delia, Nestora, and Deomira).

In his youth, he worked on the family ranch and assisted his father and grandfather with their freight business. In 1951 he started working for Lichtenstein's Department store, working his way up to the Assistant Supervisor. Then in 1952 he was drafted into the US Army.

Domingo completed basic training, then received Military Police training, upon completion he was shipped out to Schwabach, West Germany, where he performed his duties as an MP, patrolled the East/West German boarder and was a law enforcement officer for NATO troops in Germany. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, upon returning to the US, he served as a Drill Instructor and Weapons Instructor, among other responsibilities. He completed his military career and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant E5 (Active Duty and Active Reserve) in 1962.

Upon leaving the military, he moved to Fennville, MI where his family had relo-



Domingo (Don) Canales

cated to while he was overseas. He gained employment at the Blood Brothers Machine Company, which in 1975 became the Rockwell International plant in Allegan, MI. Domingo Graduated from KVCC with a technical degree in mechanical engineering, trade school in tool and die, and spoke four languages.

After surviving a severe car accident in 1963, which left him hospitalized for several weeks, he married his wife (of 61 years) Donna Marie (Westfield) Canales and settled near Dunningville in Allegan County. They had 2 children, Carmen Louise and Carl Dominic.

He was extremely devoted to his family, both immediate and extended. Spending most weekends with his brothers and sisters and their many children, along with their many friends, who were in all respects, other than blood, also family.

My dad was a bit of a car guy. He spent many weekend afternoons cleaning and polishing the family car. Over the years, he owned many cars from the Opel he brought back from Germany, his Ford Thunderbird, Ford Mustang, the multiple limefire green Pontiac Bonnevilles I rode in in my youth, the AMC Matador X, Jeep Comanche truck, his little yellow Toyota pickup, and mom's Delorian among others.

He also enjoyed boxing. When he was in the Army in Germany, he competed in the Army boxing program and upon his return, he and his friends set up a boxing club in his friend's barn. Later, though he continued to work out regularly, he no longer boxed, though he did enjoy watching professional boxing.

Though he would rarely express it verbally, those closest to him, knew that he loved his family; His parents, his brothers and sisters, close family friends, his five children; Lou, Liz, Tina, Carmen and Carl; His grandchildren; and his wife of 61 Years, Donna.

He took great pride in his family, memories, appearance, education, home and work.

We loved him very much. He will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

Visitation will be at Chappell Funeral Home, Fennville, MI, on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation in Domingo's name to Allegan Dollars for Scholars - allegan.dollarsforscholars.org

Patricia "Patty" Lee Parliament, 63

Patricia "Patty" Lee Parliament (Angle), 63, of Iron Station, NC, passed away Friday, January 31 st , 2025 - a day before her 64 th birthday. Patty was born to the late Robert and Roberta (Kellogg) Angle on February 1 st , 1961 in Kalamazoo, MI.

After graduating from Allegan High School, Patty earned her bachelor's degree from Albion College in Physical Education. She proved she was not only an academic scholar, but a talented collegiate athlete in volleyball, basketball, and track. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She then earned her master's degree from Michigan State University in Exercise Physiology. After college, Patty accepted a position as an exercise physiologist in cardiac rehabilitation in Ludington, MI, where she met the love of her life, Brad. They were married on April 30 th , 1988 with a very blessed marriage for over 36 years. They loved spending time together traveling, going to concerts, and being part of social events with friends. They were inseparable and Brad was her rock.

When she was 8 months pregnant with her first child, Patty unexpectedly encountered a health challenge that left her disabled. A short time after, her daughter Allison was born. Patty used her experience as an exercise physiologist to improve her health, allowing her to stay at home with her child. 8 years later, Patty was blessed with a second daughter, Brooklyn.

Patricia Lee Parliament

She enjoyed being part of parent-teacher organizations, coaching her daughters' sports, and being active in her neighborhood. Patty also liked to participate in community groups and volunteered at the local hospitals.

Patty was a women who loved with such openness to others and loved to have a good time. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and nana to her adorable three grandsons. She found joy in spending time with her grandkids, spoiling them through goodies, baking, and lots of snuggles.

When Patty turned 50, she discovered she had heart failure, and received a heart transplant at 60 years old. Despite her health challenges, she faced them all with a resilient attitude and positive joyous spirit. Never once did she have fear due to her faith in God and Jesus Christ.

Patty is dearly loved and missed. In addition to her husband, Bradley, her memory will always remain eternal in the hearts of her girls, Allison (Peter) Eulenstein and Brooklyn (Tyler) Harvey; three grandsons, Charlie (4.5), Nicholas (3), and Luke (18m); siblings, Robert (Marcia) Angle Jr. and Steve Angle; sister-in-law, Gayle (George) Towns; brother-in-law, Scott Parliament; her aunt, Sue Angle; numerous nephews and nieces, as well as other relatives and countless friends.

A Celebration of Life will take place in Otsego, MI on Saturday, February 22nd from 1:00-1:45p.m. for visiting with the family. A program will start at 2 p.m. at Lynx Golf Course for any persons wanting to attend. If you wish to send flowers or plants for the Celebration, please contact Plainwell Flowers at (269) 685-5055, or their website plainwellflowers.com. Due to weather in MI, the floral shop asks orders to be placed by Wednesday the 19 th of that week.

An additional Celebration of Life will take place in Denver, NC on Saturday, March 15th from 1:00-1:45p.m. to visit with the family. A program will start at 2 p.m. at The Cove Church-Denver Campus for any person wanting to attend. If you wish to send flowers or plants for the Celebration, please contact Albertine Florals at (704) 489-6202, or their website albertineflorals.com.

Interment will be at Schoolcraft Cemetery for family only.

Memorial donations in Patty's name may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners Hospital of Children, or Ronald McDonald House.

ALLEGAN COUNTY
Senior Services

Independence Through Transportation Services

Senior Transportation

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Call **269-686-5164** to arrange for this service. Please allow 3-5 business days advance notice for scheduling.

If you or a family member is in need of support services please visit: **www.allegancounty.org/Referral** or call: **(269) 673-3333**

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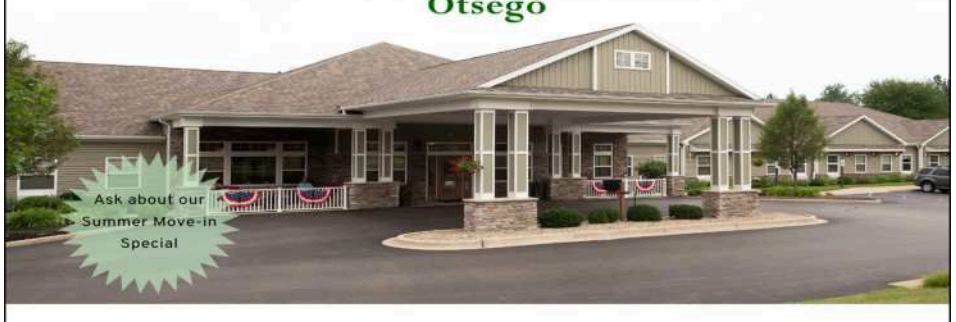

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Laketown Township Huyser hunt surveys: 1 deer taken

One hunter was successful in the 2024 Huyser Farm Archery Hunt, according to surveys returned from the event.

Fifteen hunters were chosen from 31 applicants in September. Each participant received about a two-week period to hunt on the property from Oct. 1 through Nov. 14 then Dec. 1 through Jan. 1, 2025.

The hunt is coordinated by the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission and Laketown staff member Brett Grams, facilities operations.

The eight hunters who returned surveys appreciated the chance to hunt on the 102-acre park at 4188 64th St. and reported few problems.

"I thought everything was planned well," one participant wrote.

"Appreciate the opportunity," another wrote.

The seven remaining hunters need to return their surveys or they will not be eligible for the 2025 hunt.

Two of the survey respondents reported being in the same area as another hunter.

"Hunters need to look around and respect each other," one wrote.

The other suggested putting a map on a board at the park's entrance where hunters could mark their approximate locations so they would not set up near each other.

One hunter who returned a survey bagged a 100-pound doe in the 2024 hunt. In 2023, four hunters reported getting deer. In 2022, two hunters reported getting deer.

"Just very little deer signs," one hunter wrote for the 2024 hunt. "I spoke with other hunters, and we all had the same experience. Very little sign of deer at all."

The 2024 hunt respondents spent an average of 3.6 days hunting.

The 2023 hunt respondents spent an average of 4.3 days hunting.

Survey respondents for the 2022 hunt spent an average of 4.4 days hunting during their about two-week window.

The hunting program began in 2008.

Applications for the 2025 hunt will be available in the fall.

For more information, visit Laketowntwp.org or call (616) 335-3050.

Lee Twp getting hi-speed internet

(TNS) — About 600 homes in rural Allegan County will have access to high-speed fiber Internet buy the end of this year.

A project by Internet service provider 123NET will bring Internet access to about 600 homes, after a pact with Lee Township was finalized. The $65 million endeavor will build about 1,100 miles of high-capacity fiber.

Southfield -based 123NET said Wednesday, Feb. 5 , it entered an agreement with Lee Township to build an additional 15 miles of fiber for approximately 600 underserved homes as part of a larger broadband project for Allegan County.

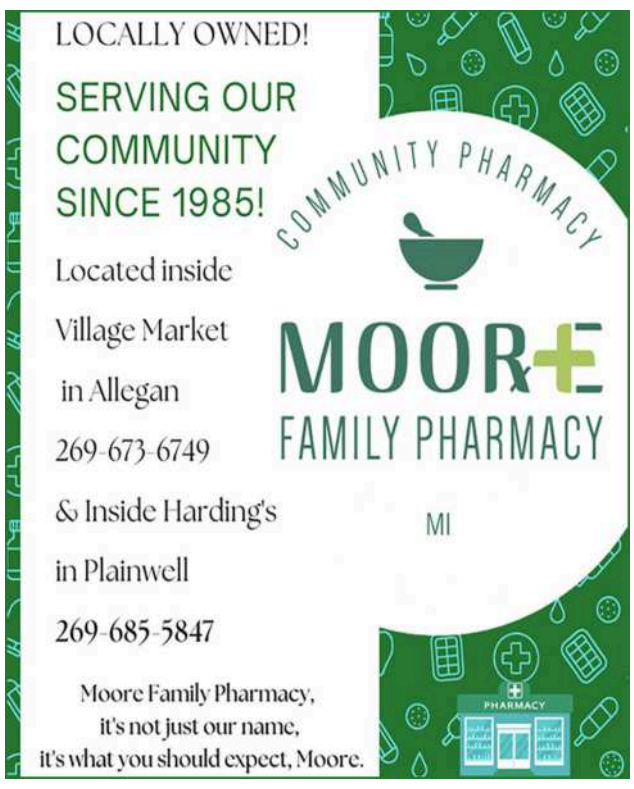
The $65 million, countywide project includes building approximately 1,100 miles of high-capacity fiber. Pullman, a rural area in Lee Township, now has been added to the project, with the township and county each contributing about $450,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support incremental costs.

"Leveraging our ARPA funds enabled us to included Pullman in 123NET's broadband infrastructure development project across Allegan County," Lee Township Supervisor Rich Rawson said in a statement. "Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and USDA Reconnect grants have been awarded to vendors for areas north and south in Lee Township, but the Pullman area remains unserved and unfunded.

"With 123NET already active in the region, this partnership brings this essential service to our residents."

Construction on 123NET's open-access, carrier-neutral fiber network in Allegan County began in 2023, and over 50% of the initial project is complete as of December 2024, according to 123NET.

123NET FIBER INTERNET
IS HERE.
Scan the QR Code to Sign Up or See when Fiber Internet Will Be Available.
123NET has started connecting select Allegan County residents. Check your address to see your estimated service availbility date.
123 NET



ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Public Notice of Intent to Dispose of Firearms

The following is a list of firearms in evidence at the Sheriff's Office. If no valid ownership claim is received within thirty (30) days of the date of public notice, the firearms listed will be disposed of. The firearms are not for sale.

If you have a valid claim to any of these firearms, and are authorized to possess firearms, contact Lt. Mike Brown to get the gun returned to you.

Contact:
Lt. Mike Brown, Allegan Co Sheriff's Office
640 River St, Allegan, MI 49010
Ph# 269-673-0500 ext 4592, or mbrown@allegancounty.org

Complaint#	Make	Model	Caliber	Serial#
21014-20	Ruger	Mod Security-six revolver	.357	150-87997
21014-20	Marlin	Mod 60 rifle	.22lr	14408547
21014-20	Remington	Mod 870 Express	12ga	B572031M
21014-20	CVA	Mod Optima rifle	.50 cal	none
21014-20	Winchester	Mod 94 AE rifle	30-30	5289709
976-14	Dan Wesson	Mod .357 revolver	.357	129266
18093-15	Glock	Mod G22 pistol	.40	VNA124
12166-09	Stevens	Mod 94 shotgun	20ga	P213544
2224-13	CAI	Romanian AK rifle	7.62x39	S-BC2729
973-11	Mossberg	Mod pump shotgun	12ga	R301324
2727-14	Ithaca	Mod 37 shotgun	12ga	356359
2947-13	CVA	Mod Wolf Muzzleloader	50cal	61-13-050850 07
7995-10	Mossberg	Mod Pump shotgun	12ga	R854863
7995-10	Marlin	Mod 882 rifle	.22wmr	06488396
138-11	Remington	Mod 597 rifle	.22lr	A2747511
16900-10	Remington	Mod 572 rifle	.22lr	none(old)
16900-10	Remington	Mod 11-48 shotgun	20ga	82591
3410-12	Mossberg	Mod Slugster shotgun	12ga	J717355
8578-17	Beretta	Mod 1934 pistol	9mm	626992
18938-23	Bersa	Mod Thunder380 pistol	.380	800205
12593-13	Fabrinor Victoria	Mod Firestorm pistol	.45	71-04-08224-02
12593-13	Sundance Industries	Mod A-25 pistol	.25	062808
18539-15	Ruger	Mod SR9 pistol	9mm	335-25094
8057-15	Ruger	Mod Super Blackhawk revolver	.44mag	85-47317
7995-10	Ruger	Mod Mini-14 rifle	.223	185-60702
16417-10	Remington	Mod 870 Express shotgun	12ga	B978635M
15747-10	Marlin	Mod 3365C rifle	35rem	H5171
14532-15	S&W	Mod M&P 9 pistol	9mm	HKK0099
10231-15	Glock	Mod G19 pistol	9mm	MNP619
5804-16	Ruger	Mod LC9s pistol	9mm	328-70876
8461-16	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P1869135
16976-11	Savage	Mod 110 rifle	30-06	B600501
18901-17	Knight	Mod Blackpowder rifle	.50cal	413881
5875-14	Mossberg	Mod 835 shotgun	12ga	UM161265

Complaint#	Make	Model	Caliber	Serial#
11572-15	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P1885971
20887-17	Taurus	Mod PT111 pistol	9mm	TK043814
6573-17	H&R	Mod 949 revolver	.22lr	AN111535
18-17	S&W	Mod M&P 9 Shield	9mm	HMX1062
1860-14	Taurus	Mod PT24/7 G2 pistol	.40	SER30059
7995-10	AMT	Mod 1911 Hardballer pistol	.45acp	A21224
13764-17	S&W	Mod M&P Bodyguard 380 pistol	.380	KEF2376
1684-13	RG	Mod RG 23 revolver	.22lr	1606/14
5892-18	S&W	Mod 442 revolver	.38	CMN3696
16163-12	Taurus	Mod PT-22 pistol	.22lr	Y149215
18066-17	Glock	Mod G23 pistol	.40cal	PXF005
12277-16	Ruger	Mod 22 Charger pistol	.22lr	490-71648
13669-12	Remington	Mod R15VTR rifle	.223	RA034292
13669-12	Browning	Mod A-bolt rifle	.300win	41254NZ717
13669-12	Ruger	Mod LCR revolver	.22lr	548-14264
12039-12	Mossberg	Mod 500 Slugster shotgun	12ga	L050916
16056-19	Remington	Mod 870 Magnum shotgun	12ga	W610091M
13669-12	Mossberg	Mod 930 Shotgun	12ga	AF018142
14475-11	Stevens	Mod single shot shotgun	12ga	none
13669-12	Mossberg	Mod 500 shotgun	20ga	R751168
16588-16	Mossberg	Mod 500 shotgun	12ga	G530471
10459-16	New England	Mod Pardner shotgun	12ga	HW505234
13669-12	H&R	Mod Ultrasiug shotgun	20ga	CAC296366
14394-12	IJA	Mod Target revolver	.22lr	N21881
13669-12	Remington	Mod 700 MI rifle	.50cal	ML104817
13669-12	New England	Mod Pardner shotgun	20ga	NR241125
327-13	Savage	Mod 11D rifle	30-06	F227865
15833-13	Mossberg	Mod 835 shotgun	12ga	UM51143
13167-13	Mossberg	Mod 835 shotgun	12ga	UM124528
20578-20	Mossberg	Mod 500A shotgun	12ga	R043927
6359-11	Marlin	Mod 60 Rifle	.22lr	17351854

Hillside Learning Center students experience adaptive skiing

For students at Hillside Learning Center, a day on the slopes at Bittersweet Ski Resort in Otsego was more than just an outdoor adventure—it was an opportunity to experience independence, joy, and the thrill of movement in a way many had never imagined.

Trips to the ski hill began in early January and will continue through the end of February. All classrooms will have the opportunity to participate in an adaptive skiing event, where dedicated volunteers use specialized equipment, including adapted skis and sleds, to guide students safely down the hill. As students glided across the snow, their smiles and laughter filled the crisp winter air, while staff members enthusiastically cheered them on.

For many students with physical and developmental challenges, traditional sports and recreation activities can present barriers. Adaptive skiing helps break those barriers, offering an exhilarating experience that builds confidence, promotes inclusion, and fosters a sense of accomplishment. Events like this highlight the importance of making outdoor activities accessible to all, ensuring that every student—regardless of ability—has the chance to participate, learn, and grow.

Teachers and staff recognize the profound impact these experiences have on their students. "Seeing our students out there, feeling the wind on their faces, laughing, and simply having fun—it's a reminder of why inclusion matters," Communications Coordinator, Carey Stolsonburg stated. "This day isn't just about skiing; it was about showing them that adventure is for everyone."

Thanks to the generosity of volunteers and the support of the community, this unforgettable day on the slopes was made possible. For the students, it was more than just skiing—it was freedom, excitement, and a chance to push past perceived limitations.

As Hillside Learning Center continues to advocate for inclusive opportunities, events like adaptive skiing serve as a powerful reminder that when barriers are removed, the possibilities are endless.

Gun Lake to host variety of events at Winterfest

The Gun Lake Winterfest announces its annual winter celebration, set to take place on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the newly selected Gun Lake County Park. This year's festival promises a day filled with exciting activities, local flavors, and community spirit.

Event Highlights:

• Gun Lake Idol: Local talents have been competing since January 11, with the top three winners receiving cash prizes of $750, $500, and $250 respectively. The final performances will be showcased on the main stage.

• Polar Dip: Brave participants can take a refreshing plunge into Gun Lake with a reduced entry fee of $10, aiming to make this the largest Polar Dip to date.

• Birdie Blizzard Disc Golf Tournament: In partnership with Innova Discs, this fifth annual tournament welcomes players of all levels to a 9-hole course at Yankee Springs Township Park.

• Main Stage Entertainment: The day's schedule includes: 11:00 AM: Opening Ceremony by the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians 11:20 AM: Gun Lake Idol Performances 11:45 AM: Winterfest Logo Winner Announcement 11:50 AM: Magician Alan Kazam's Show: Audience Participation Games: Engage in Price is Right-style games with chances to win exciting prizes. 12:30 AM: Dog Costume Contest 1:00 PM: C's Pizza Eating Contest 1:30 PM: Vernor's Chugging Contest 2:00 PM: Sand Bar & Grill Hot Wings Contest 2:30 PM: Winterfest Chili Contest Winner Announced, 50/50 Raffle Winner Announced and Raffle Basket Winners Drawn 3:00 PM: Polar Dip

• New Additions: Dog Costume Contest: Showcase your pet's best attire in this fun competition.

• Vernors Chugging Contest: Compete to see who can finish a Vernors soda the fastest.

• Sand Bar & Grill Hot Wings Contest.

For the latest updates, including parking information and a detailed schedule of events, please visit our official website at gunlakewinterfest.com or follow us on Facebook.

Renewed Hope Health Clinic

Allegan County's free health clinic serving uninsured and under insured adult residents in Allegan County

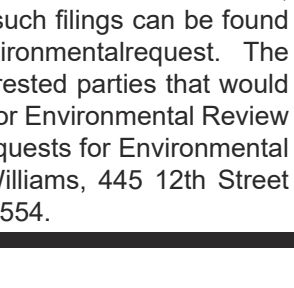
894 Marshall Street, Allegan (across from McDonalds)
269-355-3053

Office hours 9 am to 5 pm Mondays and Thursdays
Medical clinics on scheduled Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon

Our staff are volunteers who are committed to providing medical and mental health care to our community.

Services include:

- Free lab testing first Thursday of each month from 9 am to 11 am. (call for further information)
- Medical and mental health services
- Patient assistance program application (to participating pharmaceutical companies that provide low or no cost medication for eligible patients.
- Referral to specialists where indicated
- Assistance in applying for state and/or federal benefits



OTSEGO TOWNSHIP CLEAN UP DAY

Schedule for 2025

Week of March 23 and October 12th

arrowaste.com

STANDARD ACCEPTABLE BULK ITEMS

- White Goods - washers, dryers, hot water tanks, dishwashers, stoves, refrigerators (must remove doors) and air conditioners (Freon removal by technician required).
- Humidifiers and Dehumidifiers (NO commercial sized appliances)
- Furniture - tables, chairs, sofa, love seat, and dresser
- Bed frames, box springs and mattresses
- Bicycles
- Carpet and Padding (must be dry, rolled and tied in 4 ft sections. No heavier than 40 lbs. 6 bundles = 1 bulk item.)
- Cardboard (flattened, 4ft x 4 ft bundled, not exceeding 40 lbs)
- Grills - propane tank must be removed
- Lawn Mowers - must be drained of oil and gas. No riding mowers.
- Latex Paint - Paint must be solidified before collection, use kitty litter or sand to solidify. Place at the curb without the lid on the can.
- Storm doors and windows - glass must be broken out of the frame and placed in a hard container or small box, taped and marked "Broken Glass"
- Swing Sets - broken down, no poles over 6 ft
- Toilets
- Vaccuum Cleaners
- Wood - small bundle less than 4 ft, no nails or nails flattened

DETAILS

- All items smaller than a bag should be contained in either a bag or box. Small loose items will not be taken.
- All bulk item must be placed at the curb in from of the residential unit is was generated by. Place no further than 4 feet off the road. DO NOT put items in a ditch.
- If you live on a Private Dr (Blue street sign) then your bulk items need to be placed at the end of the Private Dr within 4 feet of the main road (Green street sign)
- Items cannot be heavier than what 2 people can pickup
- If items are in a trailer, make sure it is within 4 feet of the road, all items need to be bagged or boxed, and trailer needs to be secure with wheels chocked.

UNACCEPTABLE BULK ITEMS

- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Boats
- Building and Lumber Debris
- Cement
- Concrete
- Gasoline
- Hazardous Waste Materials
- Insecticides
- Oil
- Pianos
- Riding Mowers
- Snow Mobiles
- Stones/Rocks
- Vehicle Parts
- Auto Parts
- Blocks
- Bricks
- Burning Barrels
- Computer Monitors
- Dirt
- Gravel
- Hot Ashes
- Liquids
- Oil Based Paints
- Propane Tanks
- Roofing Shingles
- Sod
- Stumps
- Whole Tires

ACCEPTABLE = BAGGED AND BOXED ITEMS

NOT ACCEPTABLE = LOOSE ITEMS

Public Notice

Red Gate - Hapke

Atlas Tower 1, LLC proposes the construction of a 260 ft. lattice communications tower (264 ft with appurtenances) located at 4800 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450, in Allegan County at latitude 42° 28' 59.916"N (NAD83) and longitude -86° 0' 33.0114"W (NAD83). The proposed tower will not require lighting for FAA aviation safety. The proposed tower can be identified by FCC Form 854 File Number A1307378. Interested persons may review the application by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering the FCC Form 854 File Number A1307378. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. The Federal Communications Commission strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online; instructions for making such filings can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The mailing address for interested parties that would prefer to file a Request for Environmental Review by paper copy: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

Hall of Fame ■ from Page A1

Stephanie, Nate and Candace—for their support and the important role they played in her life and success. She also expressed her gratitude to coaches Pat McMullen, Mary Grile and Tim Syrek for their guidance.

Jessica (Sheen) Strickler

Strickler earned 10 varsity letters and set numerous records at OHS as a standout athlete in volleyball, track & field and cross country.

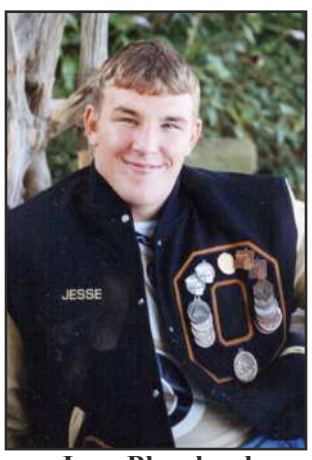
A 2003 graduate, Strickler was a part of the 2003 conference and district championship volleyball team and 2003 conference championship Track & Field team. She was a multi-year captain and MVP, 4-time All-State Track & Field Athlete and was Academic All-State in track & field and volleyball.

Strickler was a part of eight school records, including six individual records in cross country and track. She still holds the records for the 100 and 300 meter hurdles, the 400 yard dash and as a part of the 1600 relay team.

One of Strickler's favorite memories was winning the track & field conference championship with her best friends Abby and Anna Smallcombe and Becky and Jessica McDonald, who, between the five of them, broke 11 records at OHS.

After high school, Strickler turned down athletic scholarships to join the military. In the military, she earned awards for Top Female Score on the Military Police Physical Endurance & Conditioning Course and Top Female Score on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Charity (Knight) Newby



Jesse Blanchard

Jessica (Sheen) Strickler

She even won a dodgeball tournament while on a combat tour in Iraq.

Strickler earned a communications degree from Western Michigan University and is currently an officer for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety. Additionally, she serves on the board of the non-profit relief group, Isaiah 58:12 Disaster Relief and Preparedness.

Strickler and her husband, Michael Strickler, have two boys and live in Richland. Together, they coached the first men's club volleyball team at Gull Lake.

In her free time, Strickler enjoys running, spending time with her family, doing CrossFit and playing competitive 2-on-2 beach volleyball.

Strickler credits her parents, Fulton and Cheryl, as her greatest examples and mentors. She would also like to thank her favorite teachers—Darryl Belton and Leslie Emmons—who encouraged and influenced her life.

She also wanted to thank her high school coaches—Emmons, Mary Grile, Pete Fager and Steve Long—for their guidance and support.

Otsego High School Band shines at Solo and Ensemble

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It was a day to remember for Otsego High School band director Mitch Piersma and his students.

Taking part in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District 11 Solo and Ensemble on Saturday, Feb. 1, OHS earned Division 1 ratings in 55 of its 65 events.

All of the OHS Band events that received Division 1 ratings qualified for State Solo and Ensemble competition later this school year.

"It was a great day," Piersma said. "Having 55 events qualify for State Solo and Ensemble may be an OHS record. It tells me we have hard-working, talented kids."

The fact that nearly every OHS band student participated in District Solo and Ensemble—which is optional—was another point of pride for Piersma.

"I'm quite sure that we have the highest participation in our MSBOA District," he said. "And to my knowledge, no other school sent as many events as we did."

Piersma encourages all of his students to participate in Solo and Ensemble, knowing the experience will make them better musicians.

"I push Solo and Ensemble a lot because it gives the students a challenge to perform their best and to prepare for it," Piersma said. "Band music can be challenging, but not nearly as much as a solo or an ensemble.

Members of the Otsego High School band are seen at the District Solo and Ensemble. OHS received Division 1 ratings in 55 of its 65 events, with Division 2 ratings in the other 10 events. (Photos provided)

"Solos improve every aspect of a student's playing, and an ensemble teaches independence since there usually is only one person to a part. In band, there are usually several students on one part, but in small ensembles, everyone has to play it right because no one is going to do it for them."

At Solo and Ensemble, each event is graded by an adjudicator using a rubric that includes five main categories: Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation. Those categories—which each include many sub-categories—are given a letter grade on the A-F scale.

To earn a Division 1 rating, a soloist/group must receive an "A" in at least three categories. To earn a Division 2 rating, a soloist/group must receive a "B" in at least three categories.

The 10 OHS events that didn't receive Division 1 ratings all received Division 2 ratings.

"To be able to earn a first division rating, a lot of before and after school practice must occur," Piersma said. "We do not do this in class, so to do this well, the kids spent many hours at home and at organized practices with their groups."

Next up for the OHS Band is a concert in the OHS auditorium on Sunday, Feb. 16, before participating in the District Band Festival on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Plainwell robotics teams compete at elementary tourney

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GRANDVILLE—The Grandville Competition Center hosted an elementary school robotics tournament on Saturday, Feb. 8.

And of the 45 teams that participated, three were members of the Plainwell Robotics Club.

Each of Plainwell's three elementary schools sent one team to the tournament: the Gear Slayerz from Cooper Elementary; Girls with Gears from Starr Elementary; and The Hollow Knights from Gilkey Elementary.

The Gear Slayerz—consisting of Aiden DeYoung, Alex Gruizenga, Noah Johnson and Carter Palme—had the best showing of those teams, finishing the day in 20th place. The team is coached by Bryan Gruizenga and Justin Palme.

Girls with Gears finished in 36th place. The team, featuring Lyla Reiber, Bridgett Crampton and Riley Czarnecki and coached by Sarah Orr and Nicole Moore, also received the Judges Award.

The Judges Award is presented to a team that the judges determine is deserving of special recognition.

The Hollow Knights finished in 42nd place. Team members include Ezekiel Blair, Penelope Carruthers-Makarewich, Madilyn Fisher and Charles Gerds, with Carruthers-Makarewich and Jamie Raulston serving as coaches.

Plainwell's Girls with Gears robotics team received the Judges Award at the event in Grandville on Saturday, Feb. 8. Team members are (from left) Lyla Reiber, Bridgett Crampton and Riley Czarnecki (Photo provided)

Plainwell crowns royalty

Plainwell High School held its annual Snowcoming festivities during its home basketball games against Sturgis on Friday, Jan. 31.

And as always, the culmination of the evening was the crowning of the new Snowcoming king and queen.

Earning those honors this year were Chad Winenger and Sadie Boven, respectively. (Photo provided by Ryan Lindsey Photography)

NOTICE

TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PLAINWELL
BOARD OF REVIEW
MARCH 2025

Tuesday, March 04, 2025 - 9:30am — Organizational meeting (no hearings)
LOCATION: Plainwell City Hall Conference Room, 211 N. Main St., Plainwell, MI 49080

Monday, March 10, 2025 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm and 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 9:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 7:00pm
LOCATION: Plainwell Department of Public Safety, 119 Island Ave., Plainwell, MI 49080

The Board will meet on the dates and times stated above for the purpose of hearing appeals to the 2025 assessments.

Hearings are by appointment. To make an appointment, call (269) 685-6821 Monday through Friday from 8:00am - 4:00pm.

Beginning Ratios and factors are:

Commercial Ratio	42.07%	Factor:	1.1887
Industrial Ratio	38.26%	Factor:	1.3068
Residential Ratio	45.26%	Factor:	1.1047

Michael Richmond, Assessor
City of Plainwell

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest Award-winning Newspaper Best Sports Column
Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025

Gustafson joins exclusive 1,000-rebound club

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—The milestones just keep coming for Saugatuck senior girls basketballs standout Kennedy Gustafson.

After reaching the 1,000-point mark earlier this season, Gustafson joined the rare 1,000-rebound club in the Trailblazers' 44-36 road win over South Haven on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Gustafson became just the 32nd girls player in Michigan High School Athletic Association history to record that many rebounds.

"When you think of how rich the MHSAA history is for basketball in our state, and for Kennedy to be one of 32 players to do that is an amazing accomplishment," Saugatuck coach Kevin Tringali said.

Gustafson was honored for the achievement prior to Saugatuck's 59-32 home win over Delton on Friday, Feb. 7.

In that game, Gustafson scored 12 points to match Penny Grob for second on the team behind Mylah Simpson's game-best 18 points. Tali Laskowski checked in with nine points as the Trailblazers, ranked sixth in Division 3, improved to 13-1 overall and 7-0 in divisional play.

In the win over South Haven, Simpson scored a season-high 22 points to lead the charge.

Simpson and Laskowski also limited the damage done by South Haven's Lynique Cunningham, who entered the game scoring nearly 30 points per game.

"This was a statement game for us," Tringali said. "To have back-to-back road games and lock down on defense like we did against a tough South Haven team makes me a very proud coach.

"The kids trusted us and executed the game play against an elite scorer. Our effort, energy and attitude were on point."

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, Saugatuck beat Tri-Unity Christian 50-30 behind a 23-point, 8-rebound effort from Gustafson.

Saugatuck senior Kennedy Gustafson, seen in action against Delton, recorded the 1,000th rebound of her career in a win over South Haven. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Allegan claims first district crown in eight years

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SOUTH HAVEN—They came. They saw. They conquered.

That pretty much sums up the performance of the Allegan boys wrestling team at the Division 3 team district hosted by South Haven on Thursday, Feb. 6.

After dispatching Hopkins by a 51-11 score in the semifinals, the Tigers bested host South Haven 60-10 in the finals.

The district title was the first in eight years for Allegan, which entered postseason action ranked fourth in D3 and headed to regionals with a 28-2 record.

"To win the first district title in eight years means a great deal to our program," Allegan coach Chase Beard said. "However, our eyes are set further down the road."

Beard was especially pleased with the bonus points earned by his team.

Allegan dropped just five total matches against South Haven and Hopkins, going a combined 23-5 for the evening.

Four of Allegan's wins came by way of forfeit, meaning the Tigers won 19 matches on the mat. And of those 19 matches, 16 of them were by way of pin, tech fall or major decision.

"The key stat for our team came down to the fact that we managed our bonus points very well," Beard said.

Picking up pins against South Haven were Cooper Prentice (120 pounds), Hudson VanderKooi (126), Sylar Bush (215) and Sullivan Mogan (106). Treydan VanderKooi (144), Ryan Sparks (165) and Jacob Collier (113) each won by tech fall.

Allegan pins against Hopkins came from Treydan VanderKooi (144), Rysten Williams (175), Bush (215) and Morgan (106). Dylan Ritsema (190) won via tech fall, with Collier (113), Hudson VanderKooi (126), Landon Fance-Coulson (150) and Aiden Pearce (157) all earning major decision.

The Allegan boys wrestling team cruised to a Division 3 district title with wins over Hopkins and South Haven. (Photo provided)

Plainwell gets past Allegan

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The 200-yard freestyle relay couldn't have been much closer in the SCC meet between the boys swim & dive teams from Plainwell and host Allegan on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The Trojans ended up prevailing in that event, as Sam Harper out-touched Allegan's Oliver Burnett by a 136.43-1:36.48 margin.

The rest of the meet wasn't quite as close, as the Trojans remained unbeaten in league action at 5-0 with the 97-75 victory.

"We had a good meet with Allegan," Plainwell coach Andrea Murphy said. "I felt bad because (Allegan's) team was pretty sick and they had to make a lot of changes.

"I think it would have been a lot more competitive if they had their full lineup and we know they will be a challenge at the (conference) championship meet."

Austin Susens was the lone Plainwell athlete to win multiple individual events, taking the 200 free at 2:04.09 and the 500 free at 5:45.48.

Susens was also part of Plainwell's winning efforts in the 200 and 400 free relays. He joined with Alex Steele, Grady Nugent, Davis Nooney and Harper to win the 200 free relay, while teaming with Steele, Hiro Nguyen and Harper to win the 400 free relay (3:46.04).

Steele (2:18.94 in the 200 IM), Harper (49.5 in the free), Ben Sparks (1:02.92 in the 100 backstroke) and Aidan Ranger (172.9 in diving) accounted for the Trojans' other event wins.

Allegan, meanwhile, had a strong start to the meet as the 200 medley relay team of Cadel Conrad, Ezra Smith, Burnett and Sam Kelley posted a winning time of 1:47.09.

Burnett also won the 50 free (23.12) and the 100 butterfly (58.84), while Smith won the 100 breaststroke (1:10.18).

"We put up a strong fight against (conference) top-ranked Plainwell," Allegan coach Carol Gephart said. "Despite missing several key swimmers due to illness, we delivered outstanding performances, showing significant improvement across the board.

"Perhaps the most exciting takeaway from the meet was the continued growth of our young swimmers. Charlie Morris, Adam Mozery, Gabe Thorsen, Emerson Scripps, and Jon DeLaet all recorded significant personal bests, demonstrating the hard work and dedication fueling the team's progress.

"Even though we didn't come away with the win, tonight was a success in many ways. We had some fantastic races, and our younger swimmers continue to make big strides. This team is improving every time we compete, and that's what matters most."

Ben Sparks competes for Plainwell in a meet earlier this season. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Hamilton boys wrestling wins district

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON—During the regular season, the boys wrestling teams from Hamilton and Wayland split a pair of close matches. That included a 36-35 decision by the Wildcats in the most recent showdown at its home Jody Tyner Memorial Tournament on Jan. 12.

So when the teams met in a Division 2 team district final on Wednesday, Feb. 5, it had all the makings of another close match.

And that it was, with Hamilton earning the 40-33 victory on its home mats.

The district title was the fourth straight for the Hawkeyes, who advanced to the regional round in Three Rivers.

Hamilton beat Grand Rapids Christian 72-9 in the district semifinals.

Jacob Chase (165 pounds) was one of eight Hamilton wrestlers to go 2-0 for the evening, keeping his perfect record for the season intact at 44-0.

Also going 2-0 for Hamilton were Broden VanWieren (113), Chase Morrison (120), Malachi Kapenga (138), Bryce Morrison (144), Trace Lopez (150), Tyler Block (175) and Shane Dams (215).

For Wayland, Peyton Keena (126), Miles Nesbit (132), Lane Button (157), Bryton Merren (190), Trent Sikkema (215) and Jody Bitner (113) earned wins against Hamilton.

Trojans upend Bulldogs in districts

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—The Plainwell boys wrestling team rolled into Division 2 team regional action thanks to a strong showing against a familiar foe in the district finals.

Squaring off with archrival Otsego in the district title match on Wednesday, Feb. 6, the Trojans secured the 63-13 victory.

Plainwell was slated to square off with Hamilton in a regional semifinal in Three Rivers on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Three Rivers and St. Joseph were set to face each other in the other semifinal.

Plainwell won 11 of the 14 matches against Otsego, with seven of those victories coming via pin and two more by forfeit.

Earning pins for the Trojans were Tyler Cooper (120), Ben Lynes (132), Thomas Almaguer (144), Marco Vega (150), Matthew Moore (165), Brendyn Glessner (175) and Carter Ritchie (215). Dylan Nieuwenhuis (106) and Grady Erlandson (113) each won by forfeit.

Also winning for Plainwell were Austin Gyorkos at 138 (tech fall) and Adin Young at 285 (major decision).

Zeke Andrina (tech fall at 126), Kole Engleright (tech fall at 190) and Lane Blanchard (decision at 157) accounted for Otsego's wins.

Plainwell didn't have a district semifinal as there were only three teams in the district. The Bulldogs beat Paw Paw 48-36 in their semifinal.

Plainwell celebrated its Division 2 district championship after upending host Otsego in the finals. (Photo provided)

Martin secures Division 4 district championship

Martin's Jakub Tomyslak (right) competes in the district match against Gobles. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—The Division 4 wrestling team district between host Martin and Delton on Wednesday, Feb. 5, was a pin fest.

Ten of the 14 matches ended with a pin, while two others were forfeits.

Fortunately for the Clippers, they were on the good end of eight of those pins and they rolled to the 54-28 victory.

Martin earned its place in the finals thanks to a hard-fought 34-26 win over Gobles in the semifinals.

Picking up pins for Martin in the Delton match were Jacinto Lopez (106 pounds), Urijah Joostberns (113), Logan Curry (138), Haylen Buell (157), Jack Bagwell (165), Jakub Tomyslak (175), Malcom Smith (190) and Sam Bleeker (215).

Against Gobles, Martin led just 15-13 through six matches.

But the Clippers won five of the next six matches—starting with a pin by Cooper Dinse at 285)—to build an insurmountable 34-16 lead.

Joostberns (major decision at 113), Nate Arnett (decision at 120), Logan Gilbert (decision at 126) and Cole Reitz (decision at 132) had the other wins for Martin during that span.

Buell (pin at 150), Matthew Holmes (pin at 157) and Tomyslak (decision at 175) had earlier wins for Martin.

Allegan swim & dive cruises past visiting Hastings

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Domination.

No, check that. Total, utter and complete domination.

Yep, that pretty much sums up the performance of the Allegan boys swim & dive team in its league dual with Hastings on Thursday, Feb. 6.

The Tigers took first place in all 12 events and rolled to the 83-57 victory.

"Our guys showcased their strength in the pool, delivering an impressive performance and demonstrating the depth and talent of our team," Allegan coach Carol Gephart said.

Diving produced the closest results, with Allegan's Noah Greig edging past Hastings' Colton Baker by a 144.9-143.9 score.

Greig also teamed with Oliver Burnett, Wesley Goodspeed and Sam Kelley up win the 200-yard freestyle relay at 1:45.01.

Burnett was one of two Allegan swimmers to take first place in multiple individual events, joining Cadel Conrad in doing so.

Burnett won the 200 IM (2:22.55) and the 100 free (51.67), while Conrad took the top spot in the 100 butterfly (59.2) and the 100 backstroke (1:03.03).

Other individual winners for Allegan were: Ezra Smith in the 200 free (2:07.2), Sam Kelley in the 50 free (24.18), John DeLaet in the 500 free (6:02.72) and Josh Kelley in the 100 breaststroke (1:17.99).

Allegan also won the 200 medley relay (1:55.86 from the team of Conrad, Josh Kelley, Smith and DeLaet) and the 400 free relay (4:09.56 from the team of Burnett, DeLaet, Charlie Morris and Gabe Thorsen).

"Despite Hastings fielding a small team, they were determined, put up a great effort and raced hard throughout the night," Gephart said. "Our depth and dominance were on full display, making for an exciting evening of competition."

Allegan Oliver Burnett competes in a recent meet. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin girls beat Galesburg-Augusta on hardwood

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—"We needed this."

Those were the words of Martin girls basketball coach Ben Schipper following his team's 52-44 win over Galesburg-Augusta on Friday, Feb. 7.

The victory snapped a five-game losing skid and came one day after the Clipper suffered a 48-46 double-overtime loss to Tri-Unity Christian.

"Tonight was such a big win for us," said Schipper, whose team improved to 5-10. "We needed this for the girls to see the hard work they're putting in will pay off.

"Our energy was top-notch and this was the most locked in the girls have been all year. The desire to win and to execute was there tonight more than any other game so far."

A trio of players scored in double figures for Martin, led by 15 points from Torryn Harris. Avery Jager added 13 points—including four 3-pointers—and Alley Bacon finished with 11 points.

Harris also had seven rebounds and three steals, while Jager led the way with eight rebounds.

"Kayden Jager also played well with seven points in addition to taking care of the ball better tonight," Schipper said. "Maggie Jager scored four points, but had so many key toughness plays for us. Every single girl positively impacted the game."

The teams were deadlocked at 11-11 at the end of the first quarter before Martin took leads of 21-27 at halftime and 39-33 after three quarters.

Not even a fire-alarm-related evacuation with 3:55 remaining in the game could stop the Clippers' momentum.

"We've been playing some really good teams very tough lately," Schipper said. "I believe the team is starting to understand that all the adversity should be used as learning experiences to make us tougher and grittier.

"Tonight was a gritty win."

In the Tri-Unity game, Martin trailed at the end of each of the first three quarters: 12-6, 18-15 and 23-22.

But the Clippers used a 9-8 scoring edge in the fourth stanza to knot the score at 31-31 and force overtime.

The first extra sessions saw each team score seven points to trigger the second OT, with Tri-Unity using a 10-8 advantage to hold off the Clippers.

"Tonight was a heartbreaker after an incredibly hard-fought battle," Schipper said. "This is the fifth one-possession or overtime game we've lost this year.

"It's a tough pill to swallow that they keep not going our way, but we played very well overall tonight and we're proud of the great effort. We were so happy that we were the aggressors, getting paint touches and forcing fouls."

Avery Jager scored 10 of her team-best 11 points in the overtime sessions, with six of those points coming on a pair of 3-pointers.

"I'm extremely proud of Avery," Schipper said. "She played all but about one minute of the game. There was a lid on the basket for her for three quarters, but she stayed with it and we trusted her to keep going to her in pressure-filled moments."

Anna Jager and Marybeth Ritchie each scored eight points, followed by Harris and Kayden Jager with seven each. Ritchie also had 15 rebounds for the double-double.

Plainwell girls fall to Paw Paw

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PAW PAW—On Friday, Feb. 7, the Plainwell girls basketball team welcomed one of the top teams in the Wolverine Conference to town.

And it looked like the Trojans just might pull off the upset before succumbing to Paw Paw by a score of 68-58.

Plainwell's Sophie Munch (front) handles the ball in game with Paw Paw. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

The loss dropped Plainwell to 2-7 in league play (6-9 overall), while the Red Wolves improved to 7-3 in conference action (12-3 overall) to remain in third place in the standings.

"We knew this would be a tough game," Plainwell coach Mark Stephenson said. "Paw Paw can score a lot of points very quickly."

The Red Wolves scored that scoring prowess in the first quarter, building a 10-point lead.

Plainwell trimmed its deficit to four points at halftime before taking a lead early in the third stanza.

But Paw Paw wouldn't be denied, going on a run to retake a double-digit lead and holding that advantage throughout the final frame.

"We just couldn't make that one more run we needed to give ourselves a shot at the end," Stephenson said. "We were very proud of our girls' effort and focus, though."

Sophie Munch had a strong effort in the loss, going for 16 points and eight rebounds. Alyssa Weldon and Kaylee VanAtter joined Munch in double figures with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Anna Overway added eight points and a team-best 12 rebounds.

"We're really proud of our girls as a coaching staff," Stephenson said. "We are a competitive group of girls who are learning what it takes to win consistently. There has been significant growth throughout the year and our goal is to keep learning while competing extremely hard."

Otsego boys basketball suffers three losses

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PORTAGE—It was a busy stretch for the Otsego boys basketball team, with three games in a five-day span.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they came up short in all three of those contests, culminating with a 60-45 loss to Fraser on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Otsego's other losses came to Edwardsburg on Friday, Feb. 7, and to Marshall on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

"My young team is still figuring out what it takes to play successfully at the varsity level," Otsego coach Matt Dennis said. "Our effort and attitude are there, but we need to improve our execution if we want to keep up with top Division 2 teams like Marshall and Edwards and Division 1 opponents like Fraser.

"We have moments where we play solid basketball, but then we have lapses and miss assignments. These mistakes allow good teams to build a lead and slowly pull away. I see potential in our team, and that keeps me motivated to get back in the gym."

Andrew Ballman, Matthew Long and Wyatt Dennis each had nine points to lead Otsego in the Fraser game. Scottie Durr had eight points.

In the Edwardsburg game, Otsego fell behind 24-10 after one quarter and couldn't dig out of that hole.

Durr had a team-best eight points, followed by Leeland Longcore with seven. Long, Colin Fitzpatrick and Roman Busscher each had six points.

Longcore led the way against Marshall, going for 12 points. Long was next with seven points and Owen Santman had six points.

"If we can find a way to be more consistent for four quarters, we'll be in a better position to compete with the teams ahead of us," Matt Dennis said. "Winning basketball games isn't a secret: it's about staying together, playing hard and finishing strong for the whole game.

"Right now, we're putting together three good quarters, and we're still learning how to play at a high level for four quarters."

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Allegan Maddie Antkoviak (left) drives to the basket in the game with Coloma. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Tigers wins two straight

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It was a battle of the Tigers when Allegan hosted Gobles for a SAC girls basketball contest on Monday, Feb. 10.

And it was the Allegan Tigers who prevailed, posting the 46-41 win over the Gobles Tigers.

"It was a very back-and-forth game that came down to the last few minutes," Allegan coach Sharron Thompson said. "And when the dust cleared, we were victorious."

Allegan jumped to an 18-10 lead after one quarter, with Maddie Antkoviak scoring seven of her game-best 16 points during the stanza.

Allegan's lead stood at 26-21 at halftime and 39-29 entering the final frame.

Jayden Vandenakker and Ellie Bishop added nine and eight points, respectively, for Allegan. Ellie Ziemelis chipped in with six points and Bailey Meade went for eight points.

The win was the second straight for Allegan, which overcame a somewhat shaky start to pull away for the 37-20 win over Coloma on Friday, Feb. 7.

"We had a rough start, and that led to a close game through the first half," Thompson said. "But we pulled it together in the second half to secure the win."

With the victory, the Tigers moved into third place in the SAC Lakeshore Division.

And Thompson hopes his team doesn't stop there.

"We look to improve on that moving forward," he said of the Tigers' place in the divisional standings.

Meade was the offensive star for Allegan, scoring 13 points.

Ziemelis added six points, with VandenAkker and Antkoviak going for five points each.

In a 59-32 loss to Hackett on Tuesday, Feb. 5, Allegan fell behind 25-7 after one quarter and never recovered.

Lucy Young spearheaded Hackett's strong start, scoring 12 of her game-best 19 points in the opening frame.

"This was a tough road loss," Thompson said. "Hackett's defensive pressure and post scoring got them off to a fast start and even though we had a lot of good moments despite being shorthanded, the shooting and size of Hackett was too much."

Meade had a team-best 11 points for the Tigers, with Antkoviak going for nine. VandenAkker added five points.

Trojans upend Clippers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—It's been said that the third time is the charm.

For the Plainwell girls basketball team, the third quarter was the charm in its non-league game against host Martin on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Trailing 23-15 at halftime, the Trojans used a 22-6 scoring advantage in the third stanza to take a 37-26 lead on the way to the 50-36 victory.

Kaylee VanAtter led the third-quarter charge for Plainwell, scoring seven points. Anna Overway was close behind with six points in the frame, while Alyssa Weldon added five.

"The third quarter just doomed us tonight," Martin coach Ben Schipper said. "We had a hard time keeping Plainwell's guards in front of us and it led to some easy dump off passes to their posts beating our rotations."

Plainwell held a 13-7 scoring advantage in the fourth quarter to douse any hope the Clippers had of putting together a comeback.

Weldon paced Plainwell with 13 points, followed by Overway with 11 points. Overway also had nine rebounds to finish one rebound shy of the double-double.

VanAtter and Sophie Munch each chipped in with nine points, while VanAtter also had seven assists and five steals.

"This was a balanced team win," Plainwell coach Mark Stephenson said. "We struggled to find any consistency in the first half on either end of the floor.

"In the second half, however, we played really good team basketball. We had better energy at the defensive end and that helped produce at the offensive end."

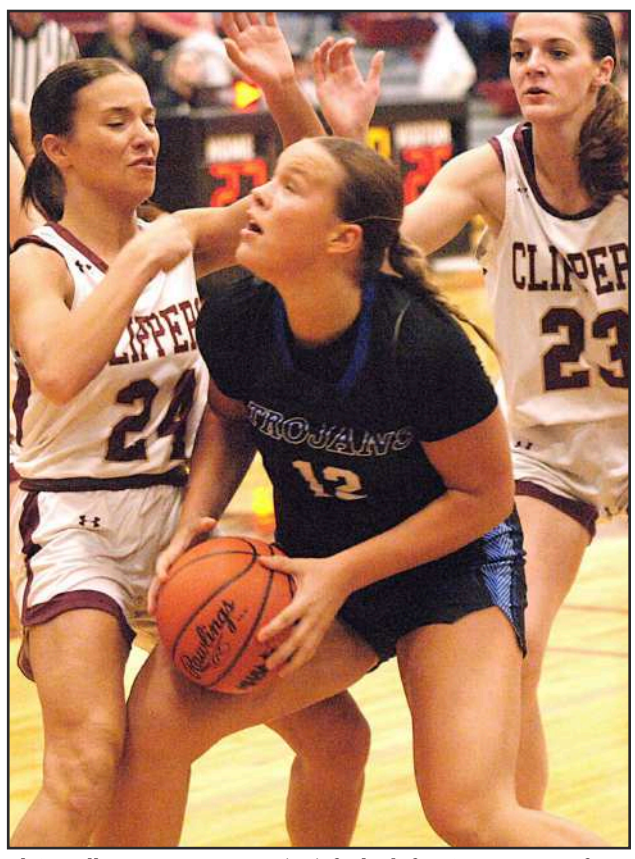
Martin got a team-best nine points from Macy Thorne. All of those points came on a trio of 3-pointers in the opening stanza to help stake the Clippers to a 13-9 lead.

But Thorne's night was cut short as she was forced to leave the game in the second quarter with an injury. She didn't return to the court.

"We had such a strong start to the game," Schipper said. "I was very pleased with our execution on offense, defense and in the press break."

Even without Thorne, Martin outscored Plainwell 10-6 in the second quarter to go up 19-15 at halftime in advance of the Trojans' big third-quarter outburst.

Torryn Harris added eight points in the loss, with Anna Jager going for six and Avery Jager contributing five.



Plainwell's Anna Overway (12) feels defensive pressure from Martin's Torryn Harris (24). (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego swim & dive cruises to victory over Harper Creek

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—Coming off their first conference loss to Plainwell the previous week, members of the Otsego boys swim & dive team were hoping to get back on the winning track when they hosted Harper Creek on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The Bulldogs did just that, securing the 89-70 victory to improve to 5-1 in the Southwest and Central Michigan Swim Conference.

The performance from Otsego was exactly what coach Darryl Belton wanted to see.

"I was hoping we would rebound after the Plainwell loss and we did," Belton said.

Otsego's lineup featured some swimmers in events in which they don't often compete.

"It was nice to have a few of the boys swim in some different stuff," Belton said. "For instance, Liam Smith swam the 100 free, Liam Raseman swam the IM, Dillon Campbell was able to swim the 50 and Carson Bydash got to try the 200 free.

"I think that helped the boys focus a little bit and helped make a (meet during Otsego's mid-winter break) a little fun."

Otsego won 11 of the 12 events, with Smith, Raseman and Willsun Fuller each winning a pair of individual events.

Smith took top honors in the 200-yard freestyle (1:51.09) and the 100 free (51.65); Raseman placed first in the 200 IM (2:19.73) and the 500 free (5:14.98); and Fuller won the 100 butterfly (58.67) and the 100 backstroke (58.09).

Smith and Fuller were also on two winning relays each. That included 400 free in which they teamed with Bydash and Blake Guerrant to post a winning time of 3:30.87.

Fuller, Raseman, Guerrant and Garrison Busscher won the 200 medley (1:52.28), while Smith, Guerrant, Busscher and Bydash won the 200 free (1:40,03).

Otsego's other two event wins came from Guerrant in the 50 free at 23.66 and Caleb Wesseldyk in diving with 223.2 points.

"The schedule and weather have made the last couple of weeks a challenge," Belton said. "So it was nice to be able to get back into a routine."

Caleb Wesseldyk won diving in Otsego's meet with Harper Creek, posting a score of 223.2. (Photo by Tim Beason)

Otsego girls hoops win two

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—Earlier this season, the Otsego girls basketball team dropped a road contest to Edwardsburg.

Thanks to strong finish, the Bulldogs got their revenge on Friday, Feb. 7.

Leading by a single point at the end of three quarters, Otsego used a 14-4 scoring edge in the final frame to pull away for the 53-42 victory.

The win was the fourth straight for the Bulldogs, who improved to 10-5 overall and 7-2 in the Wolverine Conference to retain sole possession of second place in the league standings behind Vicksburg. Otsego also bested Marshall (10-4) in a non-league contest on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

"This was another great test against an 11-4 Edwardsburg team that had beaten us before Christmas break," Otsego coach Tony Koshar said of the win over the Eddies. "Like the game on Tuesday against Marshall, this was a very close game for much of the way.

"And much like Tuesday, we made some winning plays in the fourth quarter, clamped down on defense and pulled away down the stretch for the win."

Audrey Lingbeek and Tessa Prough led the offensive charge for the Bulldogs with 31 combined points. Lingbeek led the way with 16 points, while Prough had 15 points.

"Audrey led us in scoring, but it was more than that," Koshar said of Lingbeek's impact on the game. "Once again, she did a nice job of running the show on offense and getting us into the right things.

"Tessa played a great all-around game and again was a fabulous leader for our girls."

Brooke Smalldon added 10 points to give Otsego a third double-digit scorer. She also had a team-best five rebounds, giving her one more than Lingbeek, Prough and Peyton Johnson.

In the win over Marshall, the Bulldogs led 16-14 after one quarter, 37-33 at halftime and 50-49 at the end of three quarters.

"This was a great high school basketball game where the lead for either team was seldom over one possession through three-and-a-half quarters," Koshar said. "The girls kept responding when we would fall behind."

The Bulldogs eventually extended the lead to eight points with about three minutes to play and held off Marshall the rest of the way.

"We struggled with defense much of the night, but made it tough on Marshall on our offensive end," Koshar said. "We made a lot of winning plays down the stretch which is great for a young team."

Smalldon was a force offensively in the win, netting 27 points to go with six rebounds and six steals. That point total included a 3-pointer that extended Otsego's lead to five points.

"Brooke made a lot of key plays for us tonight," Koshar said.

Madden Fitzpatrick added 12 points and four rebounds, while Lingbeek had 10 points and seven rebounds. Reagen Engbers and Prough chipped in with eight and six points, respectively.

Book review: Let's Call Her Barbie

The Bookworm Sez

"Let's Call Her Barbie"

by Renée Rosen

c.2025, Berkley

$19 • 432 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Looking great is serious business.

Skincare, hair care, make-up, and jewelry, it all takes time to get it right. You might watch your weight. You keep tabs on your physical and emotional health. Fashion is at the top of the list for looking great, and that's a lot of work, too. Indeed, as in the new novel, "Let's Call Her Barbie" by Renée Rosen, haute couture is nothing to toy with.

At first, Elliot Handler underestimated his wife, Ruth, but it didn't take her long to prove her mettle. Ruth was capable, smart, fearless, and by 1956, she was president of the company she co-founded. So when the Mattel design staff balked at her idea for a new kind of doll for little girls, well, they should've known that Ruth wasn't going to take "no" for an answer.

But creating a grown-up fashion doll would be an uphill battle: the prototype that Ruth handed to her research & development head, Jack, had to be altered to avoid lawsuits. The doll, named Barbie, after the Handler's daughter, was strictly kept under wraps to avoid theft of ideas from competitors in the industry. Ruth needed ti hired clothing designers to give her new creation a wardrobe and little girls a reason to keep buying Barbie's accessories.

But the biggest hurdle was consumers – most notably, mothers. Ruth hoped to tap into the new medium of television, with advertisements for Mattel's new doll; she knew that once young girls actually saw Barbie, they'd want one despite their mothers' reluctance.

And she was right. By 1960, Barbie was a smash hit but behind the scenes, things weren't running so smoothly.

The real "Barbie" hated everything about her namesake, and she shunned her mother for it. Jack was wild, drinking, using drugs, and womanizing his way through the staff, including Mattel's best up-and-coming clothing designer. And Ruth knew that stress was getting to her, which worried her. She smoked too much, and everybody knew cigarettes caused cancer…

So here's what happens when you set Mad Men in a toy factory, toss in actual events and real people, then sprinkle it with an extra bit of drama. Yummy: "Let's Call Her Barbie."

Because it's based on true events and featuring mostly real characters, it's easy to forget that this story is a novel. Author Renée Rosen does such a fine job telling a tale that readers – especially those who had a big collection of Barbie dolls beneath their bed, way back – will be totally captivated, and immersed in this entire book, the business side of it, the personal side of it, all of it. This story speaks directly to the heart of little girls now grown, and it brings back some of the best parts of childhood, favorite toys, and playtime.

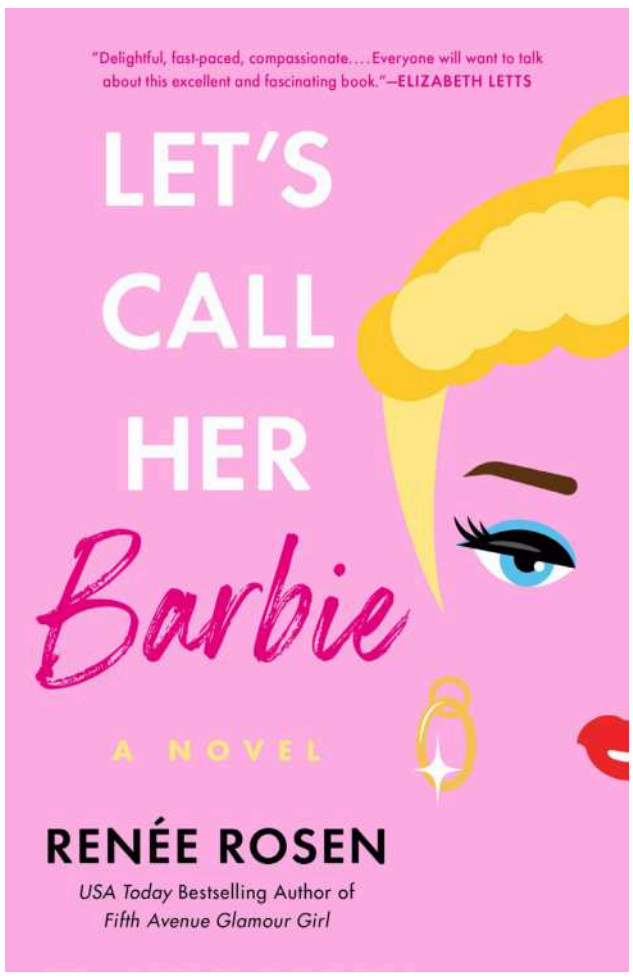
At the end of this novel, Rosen reveals to readers who in the story was real and who was not, but resist and don't peek! Just enjoy "Let's Call Her Barbie" at its own leisurely pace, and loving it is child's play.

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer.

Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 13,000 books.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library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TOWNSHIP OF ALLEGAN

COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To: The Residents and Property Owners of Allegan Township, Allegan County, Michigan, and Any Other Interested Persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No. 25-01, titled, the Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation Ordinance that was adopted by the Allegan Township Board of Trustees on February 3, 2025, to provide for the granting of franchises, to set a term limit, to set expenses; require compliance with local regulations, set an effective date; and, to repeal of ordinances.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-01

SECTION 1. Granting of Franchise to Use highways, Streets, Alleys and Public Places. This Section grants the Michigan Gas Utility Corporation ("Corporation") a franchise for the purpose of operating and maintaining a gas distribution system within the Township's right-of-way.

SECTION II. Non-Disturbance of Public Travel: Restoration: Construction Maintenance. This Section requires repairing infrastructure, and to interfere as little as possible with the public's right of travel.

SECTION III. Hold Harmless. This Section provides that the Corporation will hold the Township harmless from any loss/damage, unless the harm arises out of the negligence of the Township or its agents.

SECTION IV. Rates Established by Michigan Public Service Commission. This Section states that the rates shall be established by the MPSC.

SECTION V. Term: Effective Date. This Section states that the franchise term is for 10 years. The franchise is effective the day after publication, after adoption.

SECTION VI. Franchise revocable; Irrevocability Upon Approval of Electors. This Section states that the franchise is revocable at the will of the people, unless there is a vote of the people.

SECTOIN VII. Expenses of Election Paid by Grantee. This Section states that the Corporation shall pay the costs of a special election.

SECTION VIII. Compliance with Local Regulations. This Section states that the Corporation shall comply with all ordinances, regulations and rules of the Township.

SECTION IX. Repeal of Prior Ordinance. This Section repeals the Township's Franchise Ordinance, adopted November 7, 1994.

SECTION X. Publication. This Section states the Township shall publish a notice of adoption of Ordinance No. 25-01.

SECTION XI. Recording of Ordinance. This Section states that the adopted ordinance shall be recorded in the Township's book ordinances and with the Allegan County Clerk.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Allegan Township at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

ALLEGAN TOWNSHIP
Michelle Waite, Clerk
clerk@allegantownship.org
3037 118th Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-5051
https://www.allegantownship.org/index.html

NOTICE

Valley Township
2025 Board of Review

The Valley Township Board of Review will be held at the Valley Township Hall, 2054 N. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 4,
11 AM – Organizational Meeting only
Tuesday, March 11,
9 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM – Appeal Hearing
Friday, March 14,
1 PM to 4 PM and 6 PM to 9 PM – Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. Letters are accepted as appeal, provided they are received prior to the final appeal hearing. Send letter to the Valley Township Board of Review, 2054 N. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 as provided by the Allegan County Equalization Department are as follows:

Agricultural	44.41%	1.12587
Commercial	51.49%	0.97106
Industrial	49.16%	1.00000
Residential	45.93%	1.08861
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

State Equalized Value (SEV) represents 50% of the True Cash Value of the property. Taxable Value (TV) is the lower of the SEV or the 2024 TV multiplied by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (1.031). Transfers of ownership in 2024 will cause the cap in taxable value to be removed, making the taxable value equal to the SEV for 2025.

Mike Krcatovich
Valley Township Supervisor

Krista Simmons
Valley Township Assessor

NOTICE

Martin Township
2025 Board of Review

The Martin Township Board of Review will be held at the Township Hall (Fire Hall), 988 Templeton, Martin, MI 49070, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 4,
9:00 a.m. – Organizational Meeting only
Monday, March 10,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Appeal Hearing
Thursday, March 13,
3 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. Letters are accepted as appeal, provided they are received prior to the final appeal hearing. Send letter to the Martin Township Board of Review, PO Box 184, Martin, MI 49070.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 as provided by the Allegan County Equalization Department are as follows:

Agricultural	44.55%	1.12233
Commercial	50.26%	0.99482
Industrial	44.56%	1.12208
Residential	48.57%	1.02944
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

State Equalized Value (SEV) represents 50% of the True Cash Value of the property. Taxable Value (TV) is the lower of the SEV or the 2024 TV multiplied by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (1.031). Transfers of ownership in 2024 will cause the cap in taxable value to be removed, making the taxable value equal to the SEV for 2025.

Glenn Leep
Martin Township Supervisor

Krista Simmons
Martin Township Assessor

NOTICE

WATSON TOWNSHIP
2025 Board of Review

TO ALL TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS: The 2025 Board of Review of the Township of Watson will meet at the Watson Township Hall, 1895 118th Ave., Allegan, MI on

Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00pm. Organizational meeting only, no tax protest at this meeting.

TAX PROTEST WILL BE HEARD:

Monday, March 10, 2025	Tuesday, March 11, 2025
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

At which time the board of review will hear protest relative to assessments for 2025 and will, upon presentation of sufficient evidence, correct the assessments in a manner as will, in their judgement, make it relatively just as equal.

The tentative factors of the Township of Watson for 2025 are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agriculture	40.50	1.23457
Commercial	37.98	1.31648
Industrial	41.96	1.19161
Residential	48.46	1.03178
Developmental	NC	NC
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Please direct all written, faxed or e-mailed replies to:

Watson Township Supervisor, Kevin Travis
1895 118th Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010
Fax: 269-672-5488
Email: supervisor@watsontownshipmi.gov

All written replies must be received no later than Monday, March 10, 2025

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

According to the calendar, it is still another 6 weeks until spring. We've had snow, wind, and cold enough, and some of us yearn to escape to somewhere warm. This week's question: "Whatcha doin' this winter?"

-Couple at a gas station on M-89: Man behind the wheel: "Take a look in the back seat. We're off to Dustin. Dustin, Florida, for a few weeks."

-Woman filling up her pick-up gas tank: "Working, taking care of the kids, and more work."

-Man at the Fennville hardware store: "Buying a new snow shovel. My boy back his truck over the one I had and broke the handle."

-Woman at the Fennville grocery store: "Checking the price on eggs. The President promised they'd be cheaper, but that's not all it's cracked up to be."

-Older man near the Allegan Public Library: "Going in here to read and stay warm. I just wish their cushions weren't so slippery."

-Woman, same location: "Going in to get some more videos. We watch a lot of 'em cause it's cheaper than going out or streaming 'em."

-Woman near the Old Jail Museum: "I've been helping out a neighbor lady. She's shut in this time of year because she's afraid of falling. I run a few errands; things like that. Helping someone else keeps me busy."

-Couple near the Allegan Post Office; Woman: "Nothing." Man: "That's about it, just doing a day at a time."

-Man near Minnie's: "Same thing I've been doing for a couple of years and staying right here. Listen, if you win the lottery, keep me in mind. I'd like to see that Disneyland."

-Man with him: "I hate this)(*&^%$ time of year. Not much to do but watch tv and drink beer." First man: "I heard you let out a beer belch. You ought to look into seeing if there is a contest. You know - the longest or the loudest. A contest. That might be exciting!"

-Woman near the ACCF office: "I belong to a group of women who knit, and another night I go to my book club, and I joined a bowling league. Gotta keep busy."

-Man, same location: "Kick the snow and ice from under my car, like you wrote about. That's my excitement. I used to go ice fishing, but we got a friend who catches all the blue gills."

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Mortgage dated April 19, 2024, signed on April 26, 2024, and recorded on October 2, 2024, in Liber 4978 Page 342, Allegan County, Michigan,Register of Deeds, (the "Mortgage") Under the power of sale contained in of the Mortgage please take notice as follows: Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Allegan County Courthouse in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name of the Mortgagor: Dominic Russo Original Mortgagee: Phil Mol Date of Mortgage: April 19, 2024 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 2, 2024 Amount Claimed Due on Date of Notice: $106,176.71 Said premises are located in the Township of Dorr, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and more particularly described as: Lot(s) 11 Newman's Addition to Village of Dorr, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page(s) 18, Allegal County Records. Owner(s) of Record: Dominic Russo Property Address: 1836 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI 49504 Parcel ID No. 05-280-011-00 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8) unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, then, in that event, the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later, pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8), after which Dominic Russo and all persons claiming through or under them shall be forever barred from all equity of redemption. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, the owners, Dominic Russo, will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Phillip Mol for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 14, 2025 By: Phillip Mol, Mortgagee For any inquiries, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage set forth below: Melissa Francis, Esq. Hirzel Law, PLC 37085 Grand River Avenue, Suite 200 Farmington, Michigan 48335 Phone: (248) 478-1800 Hirzel Law, PLC File No. 18163
(01-23)(02-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Clyde Pruitt, a married man and Susan Pruitt, his wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank & Trust Company, N.A.
Date of Mortgage: August 30, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 11, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $184,393.91
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 6 of Ardmore Acres, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats on
page 61, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 676 10th St, Plainwell, MI 49080-1005
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1550854
(01-23)(02-13)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FORFEIT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY
BRADLEY BASTOW (formerly of 6990 114th Ave. in South Haven):
The state of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, herewith provides notice that it intends to dispose of certain personal property that was seized on May 12, 2017, in the course of investigating a complaint filed with the Bureau of Professional Licensing (Complaint No. 51-XX-146276). If you believe you have a claim to said property, please reply in writing to:
Lorne Carignan
Bureau of Professional Licensing
611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, Michigan 48909
1-23 3-27

FORECLOSURE NOTICE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTN HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. MORTGAGE SALE—Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Williams, a single man, of 2909 Lavita Lane, Dallas, Texas 75234 ("Mortgagor") to BankUnited, N.A., a national banking association, of 7815 NW 148 Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016 ("Mortgagee") dated September 25, 2020 and recorded with the Allegan County Register of Deeds, State of Michigan, on September 30, 2020 in Liber 4517, Page 629, Document #2020019993 (the "Mortgage"). The sum claimed to be due and owing on said Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is One Million Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and 10/100 Dollars ($1,325,770.10) including principal and interest. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9 a.m., local time, said Mortgage will be foreclosed at a sale at public auction to the highest bidder at that place where Circuit Court is held in Allegan County of the premises and land described in the Mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due on the Mortgage, together with interest, advances, legal costs, and charges and expenses, including the attorney fee, and also any sums which may be paid by the undersigned necessary to protect its interest. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Commencing 66 feet South 75 degrees 40 minutes East from Southeast corner of Fair and Charles Street, thence South 75 degres 40 minutes 66 feet, thence South 14 degrees 20 minutes West 165 feet, thence North 75 degrees 40 minutes West 66 feet, thence North 14 degrees 20 minutes East 165 feet to beginning, Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 12 West. Parcel Identification Number: 54-023-057-00 Commonly known as 218 Charles St, Otsego, MI 49078 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948 CL 600.3241 or 600.3241a, as the case may be, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Dated: January 14, 2025 BankUnited, N.A., a National Banking Association Ingrid A. Jensen (616) 608-1107 Attorney for Mortgagee Clark Hill PLC 200 Ottawa NW, Suite 500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(01-23)(02-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Amy Sayvongsa and Chris Velazquez, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: August 15, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 23, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $383,513.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 3 and the North 1/2 of Lot 2 of Atkins Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 8 of plats, Page 11, Allegan County Records
Common street address (if any): 2259 Atkins Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9464
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1551051
(01-23)(02-13)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Sarkis Sarkisian and Kathryn Anne Woods Sarkisian to American Advisors Group dated January 19, 2022 and recorded January 31, 2022 in Liber 4725 at Page 1, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $299,469.42. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: Lot(s) No. 86, 87, 88, and 89 of Felker's Lake Shore Subdivision, according to the recorded plat thereof. Being the same property conveyed to Sarkis Sarkisian and Kathryn Anne Wood Sarkisian, husband and wife from Kathryn Anne Woods Sarkisian by Warranty Deed dated March 22, 2021 and recorded March 23, 2021 among the Land Records of Allegan County, State of Michigan in Book 4594, Page 247 Instrument No. 2021006924. Tax Account #: 03-59-210-032-00; ALT APN: 59-210-032-00 Said property is commonly known as 3077 May Ave, Douglas, MI 49406. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 27, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 24-36501
(01-30)(02-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Daniel Martinez And Nyokia Martinez also known as Nyoka Martinez, Husband and Wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, its successors and assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2021-RP5
Date of Mortgage: June 24, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 5, 2005
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $38,209.38
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Starting at the Northeast corner of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, Section 4, Town 2, North, Range 15 West, as a Point of Beginning; thence South 135 feet; thence West 325 feet; thence North 135 feet; thence East 325 feet to the Point of Beginning, being in Section 4, Town 2 North, Range 15 West.
Common street address (if any): 2334 54th St, Fennville, MI 49408-9587
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1551601
(01-30)(02-20)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 06, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Georgia McNees, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Centex Home Equity Company, LLC Date of mortgage: April 28, 2006 Recorded on May 12, 2006, Liber 29856, on Page 270, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series MO 2006-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series MO 2006-HE6 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Twenty-Six and 26/100 Dollars ($115,026.26) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: LOT 24 OF BELDEN SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 18. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO THE USE OF SHORE DRIVE AND HILL DRIVE. Commonly known as 692 East Lake 16 Road, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph J. Laroy, a Married Man and Pricilla Laroy, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated September 27, 2004, and recorded in Liber 2738, Page 108, in Allegan County records, Michigan, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by a corrective Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 10, 2012 in Liber 3607, Page 376, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on February 24, 20214 in Liber 3816, Page 688, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of the FW Series I Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 12, 2020 in Liber 4461, Page 226, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Two and 80/100 dollars ($109,472.80). Said premises are situated in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 5, Oak View Farm, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. Commonly known as: 282 Zak Rd., Plainwell, MI 49080 Property Address: 282 Zak Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 Parcel No.: 17-660-005-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 6, 2025 For more information, please call: (440) 572-1511 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2410006 - Laroy, Joseph J., Pricilla Laroy
(02-06)(02-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Matthew Adams, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: May 13, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 20, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $163,463.33
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Dorr, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 251, Ranchero Estates No. 5 and the replat of Lots 130 and 131 of Ranchero Estates No. 4, being in the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of Section 22, Town 4 North, Range 12 West, Door Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 10, Page 96
Common street address (if any): 4083 Ann Ct, Dorr, MI 49323-9416
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1552249
(02-06)(02-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robert S. Morgan Jr., a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.
Date of Mortgage: July 12, 2016
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2016
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $64,503.32
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Cheshire, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land described as commencing at the Southwest corner of the East 70 acres of the West half of the Southeast quarter of Section 10, Town 1 North, Range 14 West, and running thence North 250 feet; thence East 250 feet; thence South 250 feet; thence West 250 feet to the place of beginning
Common street address (if any): 4077 108th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010-9315
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1552485
(02-06)(02-27)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company,

(Continued on Page B7)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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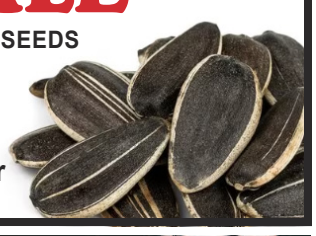

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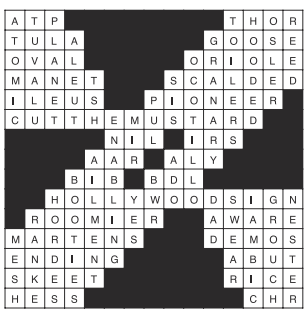

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Public Notices

Continued from, Page B6

either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Miriaixcel Cardona, a married woman, as her sole and separate property, whose address is 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Aspire Financial, Inc., D/B/A Aspire Lending, being a mortgage dated November 4, 2015, and recorded on November 13, 2015 in Liber 3980 Page 705, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated April 13, 2022 and recorded on April 13, 2022 in Liber 4750 Page 84, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY AND 60/100 DOLLARS ($70,890.60). Said premises are situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lots 64, 65 and 66 of Vio Ashdale's Addition to the Village of Pullman, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats on Page 12. Street Address: 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 6, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6248
(02-06)(02-27)

To: Marie Guadalupe Coronado. Please take notice that you have been named as a Defendant in the civil matter of Keith Banaszak v Manuel G Coronado and Maria G Coronado and Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, which is pending in the 48th Circuit Court of Allegan County before Judge Matthew Antkoviak, in relation to a motor vehicle collision that occurred on January 23, 2022, in Allegan County, Michigan. Failure to take action as required under the Michigan Rules of Court within 21 days of this publication notice, could result in a default judgment being entered against you. The Case number is 24-69750-NI. Answer must be filed with the 48th Circuit Court in the County of Allegan. contact David M. Givskud at (231) 725-8444 for more information.
1-30 2-6 2-13

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE TRUST AGREEMENT FOR GERALD C. FENNER
SS# XXX-XX-4241
(Social Security No. of GERALD C. FENNER, deceased)
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by the following:
The decedent, GERALD C. FENNER was born on January 12, 1934, and died on November 22, 2024.
The Decedent was the Settlor of THE TRUST AGREEMENT FOR GERALD C. FENNER, dated February 15, 2001, as amended and restated on June 7, 2007.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to the current acting trustee (whose name and address appears below) of the Trust within four (4) months of the date of publication of this notice.
The current acting trustee is:
JERRY A. FENNER
Address of Trustee
1270 Vildmark Dr.
Eagan, MN55123
Notice is further given that the Trust will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Date: 2/3/25
Attorney for Trustee:
Karen A. McCarty, P36401 Attorney at Law
200 W. Allegan Street
Otsego, MI 49078
(269) 694-6055
(269) 694-4406-fax

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-65418-DE
113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-0250
Estate of Donna Miller, deceased Date of Birth:* December 23, 1941
*NOTE TO PREPARER: If a copy of this form is filed with the court, you must redact the date of birth from the copy being filed as required by court rule.
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Donna Miller, deceased , died October 4, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Roger Miller, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
2/10/2025
VARNUM LLP
John M. Huff P29062 Attorney
333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 1700
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 336-6239
Roger Miller Personal representative c/o Varnum LLP -
333 Bridge Street NW, Suite
1700 Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(02-13)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 24-45107-DE and JUDGE Hon. Michael L. Buck
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of David George Bloss
Date of Birth:*XXX
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, David George Bloss, died 01/04/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Nan Houtman and Steve Houtman, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
10/16/24
Nan Houtman and Steve Houtman
9348 Sunny Oaks Drive
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 486-8916

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO ALL CREDITORS:
Sandra G. DeGroot (date of birth: January 30, 1942), who was the grantor ("Grantor") of the Sandra G. DeGroot Trust under agreement dated June 25, 2018, and who lived at 4127 Janet Drive, Dorr, MI 49323, died on January 10, 2025. There is no personal representative of the Grantor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Sandra G. DeGroot Trust under agreement dated June 25, 2018, will be forever barred unless presented to its trustee, John K. DeGroot within four (4) months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
February 13, 2025
Trustee:
John K. DeGroot
514 Chihuahua Trail
Austin, TX 78745
Trust Attorney:
Andrea E. Snyder
Rhoades McKee PC
55 Campau Ave. NW #300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 235-3500

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65415-DE and JUDGE HON. JOLENE A. CLEARWATER
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of RONALD CLINTON PLOTTS Date of Birth:*12/13/1942
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, RONALD CLINTON PLOTTS, died 5/14/2019.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to RANDY PLOTTS, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1/15/2025
ERICA L. AUSTER 67683
820 MONROE AVENUE NW, SUITE 165
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503
616-233-9160
RANDY PLOTTS
404 S. SHERMAN STREET
OTSEGO, MICHIGAN 49078
269-806-1640

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a mortgage made by Melissa Young (the "Mortgagor") in favor of Big Brother Bail Bonds Agency, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company with an address of 800 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 212, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (the "Mortgagee") dated August 19, 2024, and recorded on September 19, 2024 at Liber 4974, Page 637 of Allegan County Records (the "Mortgage"). The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid as of the date of this Notice is Five Thousand Five Hundred and 0/100 ($5,500.00). This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note as permitted by Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of default. The Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of thereof, at public auction, to the highest bidder for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of the sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on, or prior to, the date of said sale. Notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises or some part of them at a public venue at the place of holding, Allegan County Courthouse Lobby at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 at 9:00 a.m. on March 20, 2025. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage is located in the Township of Valley, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, more specifically described as: LOT 155 ASPEN ACRES SEC 21 T2N R14W. Parcel ID: 22-160-155-00 Commonly Known As: 1777 Grant Drive, Allegan, MI 49010 together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures: all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the property; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the Foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind the sale at any time. In the event of cancellation or rescission, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for any damage to the property during the redemption period. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of the sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be thirty (30) days from the date of the sale, or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: February 7, 2025 SHAUN P. WILLIS (P62441) WILLIS LAW ATTORNEYS FOR BIG BROTHER BAIL BONDS AGENCY, LLC 491 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 492-1040
(02-13)(03-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
In the matter of Cody J. Kirk, Deceased
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:*
Dustin Lee Kirk
whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE:*
I, Taylor Stewart, intend to request my informal appointment as personal representative of the estate. This notice is being served upon each person whose right to an appointment is prior or equal to my own. The court will not act upon my application until 14 days after the date this notice was mailed or until 7 days after this notice was personally served. The actions you may take include: Upon paying a filing fee, filing a petition for formal proceedings to appoint a personal representative. Upon paying a filing fee, filing an application for informal appointment of yourself as personal representative provided you have higher priority to be appointed. Contacting an attorney for assistance in representing you in any proceeding you wish to file in the court. The court will not be able to provide you with any legal advice in completing or filing the forms.
02/04/2025
Jonathan N. Jilek P65299
8080 Moorsbridge Road, Suite 103
Portage, MI 49024
269-343-1500
Taylor Stewart
8581 Pine Lake Road
Delton, MI 49046
269-993-1158

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 24-65368-DA and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Roberta G McNamara, deceased Date of Birth:*05/15/1955
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Roberta G McNamara, died 11/20/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Wintrust Private Trust Company, N.A., personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
02/06/2025
Richard Radke. Jr. P29275
3033 Orchard Vista Drive SE, Suite 308
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-559-8630
Wintrust Private Trust Company, N.A.
141 E 8th Street
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 396-9134

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65447-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of John Frederick Huitt, Deceased Date of Birth:*03-25-1959
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John Frederick Huitt, died 03-12-2024 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cheryl Ann Cook, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
2-7-2025
Christopher T. Antkoviak P59448
416 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)673-8468
Cheryl Ann Cook
314 Marshall Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-650-1083

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Aaron J. Lynema, a married man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 29, 2021 Recorded on May 6, 2021, Liber 4615, on Page 681, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on January 11, 2023 in Liber 4829, on Page 402 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Nine and 63/100 Dollars ($158,679.63) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Commencing at the North 1/4 post of Section 33, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, thence South 0 degrees 25 minutes 54 seconds West on the North and South 1/4 line 489.50 feet, thence East on the South line of the North 20 acres of that part of the Northeast 1/4 lying West of the centerline of the highway 1182.52 feet to the place of beginning of this description, thence continuing East 589.19 feet to the centerline of 30th Street, thence along the centerline of 30th Street North 0 degrees 05 minutes 48 seconds West 109.51 feet, thence North 01 degree 29 minutes 56 seconds East 111.2 feet, being a chord on a curve to the right with a radius of 1910.08 feet and a central angle of 26 degrees 30 minutes, thence West 591.95 feet, thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 31 seconds East 220.77 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 2590 30th St, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1553070
(02-13)(03-06)

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Feb. 13, 1950

Life-long resident in new on Main Street: Russell G. "Bud" Blanz, new owner of the Firestone store on Locust Street, is planning a modest remodeling project prior to his grand opening event, which is scheduled for some time in March.

In the meantime, a removal sale is in progress at the store in order to make room for redecorating and the addition of some new lines.

Blanz, a lifelong resident of Allegan, took over the store from Henry Meyers on January 20. He plans no sweeping changes in store policies and will carry Firestone and other lines of farm, home and auto supplies with an emphasis on tires.

Blanz aims to stock a most complete line of passenger, farm and commercial tires.

Feb. 13, 1975

Ownes find new store 'darling': Paul and Ada Darling are having the time of their lives rearranging and discovering all the items in the 82-year-old Phillips Brothers Hardware store in downtown Allegan.

Mr. and Mrs. Darling purchased the store Feb. 1 from Mrs. Kenneth Andrews to become the third family to own the store that hasn't seen many changes in its long history, with the exception of a new front.

The store was founded in 1893 by George and John Phillips; the late Wilson Andrews purchased John Phillips' share when he died in 1923; and he became sole owner when George Phillips died.

Three generations of the Andrews family operated the store—Wilson, his son Kenneth, Sr., and later Kenneth, Jr.

Paul Darling, who grew up in the hardware and lumber business in Perry, now operated by third-generation Darlings, said there is every kind of bold and screw there as in the Allegan store.

The Darlings were also "totally amazed" to find the largest supply of glass they've ever seen.

Feb. 17, 2000

ACISD superintendent takes Traverse City job: After almost two full decades of meeting the challenges faced by the Allegan County Intermediate School District, superintendent James P. Pavelka will be taking on a new challenge. He's been named superintendent of the Traverse City Public Schools.

He will begin his tenure there beginning the first week in May.

Pavelka, 56, said leaving the community after 20 years would be difficult. He and his family have made many friends in Allegan County, he said, and his colleagues are people of high caliber and quality.

The cooperative spirit among schools, local governments, law enforcement and business has been a positive force in the area, Pavelka said.

"I'm very appreciative of the Intermediate School District in Allegan County for affording me this fantastic professional experience over the past two decades," he said.

A 1961 graduate of Standish-Sterling High School in Standish, Pavelka attended Delta College in University Center, Mich., received a bachelor of arts degree in social studies from Central Michigan University and did advanced studies in education and educational administration at Michigan State University.

His career in education began with teaching in the Flint Community Schools in 1965. It took him to Grand Ledge as a teacher and administrator, to Hopkins as a principal and superintendent and finally to the ACISC as superintendent in October, 1981.

Feb. 13, 2020

Skeletal remains may be missing 1989 teen's: Though police did not directly link a Hamilton man to the 1989 disappearance and death of his 14-year-old adopted daughter, they did announce Wednesday, Feb. 5, they may have discovered her remains.

At a brief press conference last week, Undersheriff Mike Larsen said the department obtained information Feb. 4 that the body of Aundria Michelle Bowman was possibly located in a shallow grave covered by cement in the 32000 block of 136th Avenue in Monterey Township.

"After consulting with the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office, a search warrant was obtained and executed this morning," Larsen read from a prepared statement. "Investigators with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police and Norfolk, Va., Police Department along with the Western Michigan University School of Pathology performed this search yielding skeletal remains that appear to be human.

"This evidence is currently being collected."

Larsen said his office had begun its investigation March 11, 1989, when responding to a runaway complaint in Fillmore Township.

"Over the course of 30 years, law enforcement officers from the sheriff's office, Michigan State Police and the City of the Village of Douglas have investigated this case and followed up on many leads," he said.

Though Larsen did not name Dennis Lee Bowman, he said an arrest last November of a suspect in a Norfolk, Va., homicide in 1980 led to more information about Aundria's disappearance.

Deaths

Dec. 20, 2024
TERRY LEE ANDERSON, 70, Plainwell
Jan. 17, 2025
WAYNE ROBERT OAKES, 80, Trowbridge Twp.
Jan. 20, 2025
IRVIN DALE STEKETEE, 95, Laketown Twp.
Jan. 23, 2025
NOEL CAMERON WINGER, 73, Allegan
Jan. 24, 2025
CORNELIUS PHILLIP ZUYDWEGT, 89, Plainwell
GEORGE JUNIOR SCHOUT, 63, Monterey Twp.
Jan. 25, 2025
JEFFREY PAUL HAVERDINK, 64, Fillmore Twp.
Jan. 26, 2025
DAWN ADELE FORNEY, 90, Otsego Twp.
Jan. 27, 2025
ADAM MICHAEL HUGHES, 35, Allegan Twp.
STACY MAY KUHN, 46, Valley Twp.
Jan. 28, 2025
VIRGINIA ANN ALLEN, 92, Otsego
Jan. 29, 2025
PATRICIA ANN DEWEY, 97, Saugatuck
Feb. 1, 2025
FRANK HENRY BRADLEY III, 82, Otsego
JOHN HERBERT WATSON, 79, Douglas

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Jan. 28 and Feb. 5:

ANTHONY MAURO STRUNZ, Saugatuck, and **SAMANTHA JO WHITE**, Saugatuck
SHAYLA TATUM ALLEXIS ROY, Allegan, and **MAKAYLA LEIGH ARMIJO**, Allegan
KELSEY ROSE NORLIN, Plainwell, and **JOHN KELLERT MAYNE**, Plainwell
NATHAN BERNARD WOLF, Plainwell, and **LANA SHERIE HITT**, Augusta
MCKENZIE LYNN SCHNEIDER, Allegan, and **LANE MICHAEL HITZLER**, Allegan
JOHN WILLIAM POTTS, Holland, and **KATHLEEN ANN RIBBENS**, Ada
COLIN J GREEN, Gobles, and **DAKOTA SOUIX CUMMINS**, Gobles
MONSERAT PINON, Plainwell, and **LUKE MATTHEW OBBINK**, Plainwell
EMILY ROSE MARIE BOWERMAN, Wayland, and **REILLY JW HOSTETER**, Wayland
DESTINY VIRGINIA BAKER, Otsego, and **GERALD LEE WARE II**, Kalamazoo
JOEL ANDREW HOEVE, Hamilton, and **MARISSA DAWN COMPAGNER**, Holland
JENNIFER LYNN TEUMER, Zeeland, and **DANIEL EDWARD HARRINGTON**, Zeeland

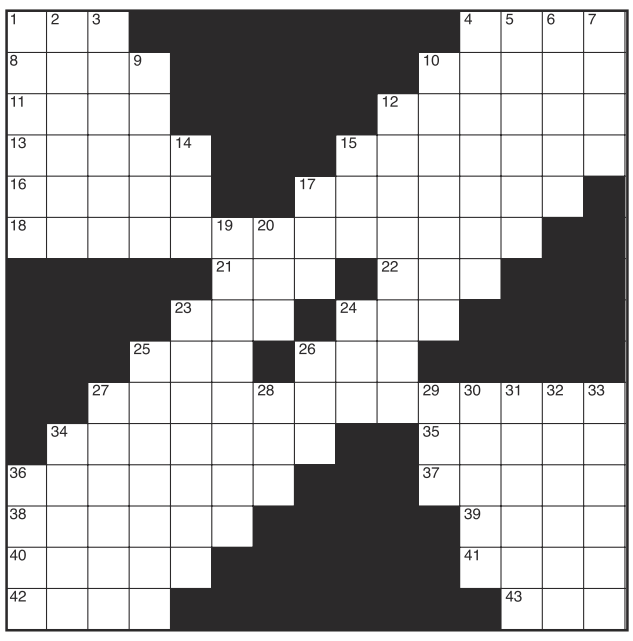
SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	9		2		7			
	8				3			
	6					2		
				4				7
7					5		3	
	2					8		6
						9	6	3
	1	4						8
3					9			

(See Solution Page B6)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Racquet sport group (abbr.)
4. Norse god of thunder
8. Russian industrial city
10. What's good for the __
11. Round-ish shape
12. Baltimore MLBer
13. French modernist painter
15. Burned with water
16. Intestinal issue
17. Take the lead
18. Prove oneself worthy
21. None
22. Tax collector
23. Swiss river
24. Gymnast Raisman
25. Baby's dining accessory
26. Canadian beer distributor
27. Iconic American tourist destination
34. More expansive
35. Alert
36. Popular boots Doc __
37. Showings
38. Conclusion
39. Share a common boundary
40. Shooting sport
41. Popular side dish
42. Global energy firm
43. Chronicles (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN
1. Type of bomb
2. Polynesian island country
3. Heavenly body
4. Hard workers
5. Covered
6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
7. Plant of the grass family
9. Island person of the Bering Sea
10. Storehouse
12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
14. A pituitary hormone
15. Female sibling
17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
19. Empowering
20. Space station
23. Disorder
24. State of fuss
25. Footwear for babies
26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
27. Droves
28. Affirmative
29. Male parent
30. Utter obscenities
31. Type of verse
32. Unpleasant person
33. One who settles down
34. Founder of source-based history
36. A way to snarl

■ see **Solution**, Page B6

Wray's so much more than a septic business

By Gari Voss

When researching generational businesses in Allegan, MI, a prominent fact arises - these businesses have served the area for well over 50 years. Throughout those years, founders and their offspring have supported each other on multiple projects and relied on one another's expertise. A key example is Wray's Septic & Excavation that has provided support across Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren Counties.

Touting the motto, "In our business a straight flush beats a full house," Wray's has been serving families and businesses since before 1968 when the company was officially registered.

Founder Chuck Wray began installing septic systems as a side business while he worked at Rockwell. With a background in big equipment and excavating constructing highways, Wray installed septic tanks along with pumping and hauling. Focusing on a specialty, Chuck made a name for himself and his business.

In the 70s, Chuck began making his own concrete products. This required a cement plant where he could mold blocks and septic tanks. During this expansion, Wray's was able to employ more workers.

Chuck came to realize that this business had become more than a one-man operation.

In the early 1980s, Bruce Carroll came on the scene. After spending time at Rex Hayes, running APSCO, and managing Armintrout's Nursery, Bruce decided to become a 50/50 partner with Chuck. With Bruce doing the scheduling, bidding and bookwork plus all the service work - electrical hookups and electrical pump installs, Chuck was able to keep installing, pumping and hauling along with the concrete work and excavating.

"Of the partners, Bruce was the quiet one," explained Rod Carroll, Bruce's younger son. "Dad was business savvy and the numbers guy. Chuck was the people guy. It worked out well."

Like with many generational businesses, Chuck's son Gary began working with his dad at the age of 14. After graduating from Allegan High School in 1985, Gary went off to diesel mechanic school in Denver, Colorado. When he returned in 1986, he had his certifications and began moving into the business.

Gary shared, "I began working for my dad when I was in high school which became full time in 1989 or 90."

Similarly, Rod began working with his dad in the early 80s. "I began working with my dad when he was the manager of Armintrout," recollects Rod. "By the time I graduated from Allegan High School in 1991, I had already transitioned to Wray's."

Brian Carroll, Bruce's older son, graduated from Allegan High School in 1983 and went into the military. When he was discharged from the service, he came to Wray's.

By 1990, the second generation was now well entwined in the septic and excavation business. Since the early 2010s when Bruce retired and Chuck cut back on his workload, the business has been transitioning from Chuck and Bruce to sons Gary Wray, Rodney Carroll, and Brian Carroll.

"Brian runs the pumping and service side of Wray's now that we are running multiple trucks," explained Rod. "Gary runs the demolitions, aggregates, and truck deliveries of sand and gravel required by contractors. I do the septic systems, both new and repairs, and the excavating, including basements and site clearing. We work together to pour our own tanks. Everyone just jumps in and does that as needed."

The "boys" have carried the business forward.

"Many parts of the business have not changed. We still make our own cement tanks and products," stated Carroll. "This allows us to load them in our yard then haul them to the sites. The tanks come in multiple sizes, 1000, 1500, and 600 gallon, then we make drywells and lids. That's the standard required for a septic system."

Rod added, "The drywell is an older style of secondary system. Basically, it is 6 feet in diameter with stone around it. It was put in as a backup in the day. So, you had a septic system with a tank and a drywell system. Most counties don't allow drywells, so they have been replaced with drain beds."

Wray's has been noted for being on the cutting edge of the "septic" business. In the beginning, Chuck saw the need and answered the call. Chuck and Bruce have left quite a legacy on which the current trio of co-owners can build. That legacy includes a FOX Service Award a year after celebrating 50 years of business, and more recently, a Spirit of Allegan Business of the Year Award given by the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Over time, the company has diversified and turned to using the machinery for excavating, trucking, demolitions and site preparation. Gary believes that the company now spends about 70% of its time on excavating and site work, and 30% on the septic tank business.

The team continues to stay current on new materials and methods. Mounds can be seen around the county where sand filter systems have been installed. Gary was one of the first to jump into this new technique.

Other firsts for the company include a community system for the Swan Lake Trailer Park. "This was the first one in the country," explained Rod. "I did the system for the Mobile Home Estates in 2010. This one received an article in installer magazines."

A 1997 photo of two generations of Wray Septic & Excavating crew took a Kodak moment which was almost unheard of. Brian Carroll, a current co-owner, is sitting on the swing. Across the back: Chuck Wray, founder & then co-owner, Ron Doest, Bruce Carroll, then co-owner, Gary Wray, current co-owner, Rod Carroll, current co-owner, and the late Tom Belden.

Like other successful businesses, the team has dipped toes into some sidelines. Right now, it is hardwood pellets. As the guys began heating their homes with external pellet boilers, it made sense to begin dealing in bulk to get the best prices. Each year, they sell about 250 ton by the bag or by the ton (50 40# bags)."

Rod feels that Wray's expanded under Chuck and Bruce through word of mouth. They were known in the community and maintained a constant flow of business. With little advertising, there was more than enough work. But the times have changed in that everyone relies on websites or social media.

"People tend to click on the web and request random quotes, so that has changed for me," stated Rod. "I do all the bidding and scheduling. As far as workwise, I have pushed for upgrading our technology. There are new septic systems out there that are not just the plain Jane system – aeration, pump, pressure, and sand filter systems along with alternative drain beds. Not a lot of people want those, but I try to keep up with those specialized systems."

Rod figures that they have put in over 6000 sewer systems for more than 10,000 customers over the years.

Today, septic systems are still the bread and butter of Wray's. Carroll shared that there exists a handful of septic businesses in the area. At different times, there are fly-by-night or weekend companies who attempt to begin a business by taking side jobs but disappear when times get tough. The Wray's team knows the competition that has been around for almost as long as they have, but they feel that competition is positive.

"If there is no competition, the businesses can charge whatever they want, and that is not fair to the homeowner," expressed Rod. "It is good to get two or three or four bids to see if the price is competitive."

Moving forward, Rod does not look at making many changes. If a new system comes out, they will look at installing it when requested. But there may only be a couple of those a year, so the majority of business will be the standard system, or the regular basement dig.

The trio will continue watching for conferences to learn about new products. But in terms of the installation, Rod acknowledged that it is the same old school that has been working for 100 years. The product changes but the basic system is the same.

"The basic part of our work is the labor," Rod stressed. "In the winter, there is a skeleton crew. Brian and Bill run the pump trucks. One guy pours the cement. A couple guys are on the ground, so there are 9 or 10 in summer. It has been more difficult to add summer crew. These are usually men who are retired and looking for something to keep busy."

"We take the winter to work on equipment. This is when we can tear things down and replace parts," stated Carroll. "Even that gets more difficult because it is hard to find a place to have a pump repaired."

Finding crew has become a challenge. "This is why most companies like ours stay small," explains Carroll. "We couldn't take huge jobs and put on large crews. By staying small, we have crews who show up to work every day and complete quality work. The person with the least seniority has over 14 years of experience. Everyone knows their job and does it well, which makes a better product for the customer.

"I am still out in the field every day running equipment then come back in to do paperwork at night or whenever there is time. It is the same thing for Gary and Brian. Laurie Wray runs the office."

As for the future of Wray's as a generational business, there does not seem to be another generation of Wray or Carroll "children" who will take over the company unless it is in the office managing aspects. On the positive side, there is an employee, Austin Root, who has been with the company for years, and may be willing to take ownership. He began at Wray's then took some time away and got experience in water and septic treatment plants. When he decided to begin a family, Root stopped traveling and settled back in Allegan. Rod refers to him as "family".

Gary believes that what puts Wray's above other businesses is that they are known and respected throughout southwest Michigan. "As we come to spring, we have quite a backlog of jobs. Many businesses use Wray's without seeking other bids because they know we will get the job done right the first time."

As for the importance of the collaboration amongst generational businesses in Allegan. The boys have grown up with and gone to school with many of the second or third generation owners.

"We still work with Zac at Armintrouts on projects," Rod stated. "Recently, this has included excavation and septic systems in a subdivision on Schermerhorn Lake. Waanders [another generational business] makes deliveries of cement almost daily. Rapa Electric will still work at repairing our motors."

Reminders from the team include making sure to do yearly maintenance checks on septic tanks which include routine pumping. This can identify problems and allow for repairs if necessary. It is not known how long a septic system will last because it depends upon the number of people in a household, the number of loads of washing done, if the water softener works properly, etc. The bottom line is that it is important to have a tank checked and pumped.

LEE TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lee Township Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 877 56th St, Pullman, MI 49450 on the following dates:

March 4, 2025
6:30 pm - Organizational Meeting
March 12, 2025
2:00pm - 5:00pm &
6:00pm - 9:00pm - Appeals Meeting
March 13, 2025
11:00am - 2:00pm &
3:00pm - 6:00pm - Appeals Meeting

Please call or email for an appointment to appear before the Board of Review. Letter appeals are accepted and must be filed with the Assessor prior to 5:00pm, March 12th. All appeals are required to submit form L-4035 – Petition to Board of Review.

The 2025 tentative ratios and multiplying factors are listed by class as set by the Allegan County Equalization Department as follows:

Agricultural	44.46 / 1.12461
Commercial	52.94/ 0.94447
Industrial	45.89/ 1.08956
Residential	46.57/ 1.07365
Personal Property	50.00 / 1.00000

Heather Jahr
Lee Township Assessor
(616) 970-7820
leeassessor1@gmail.com

They're in Good Hands Here

From puppies and kittens to senior pets, our caring and experienced team is here to provide your pet with the very best care and a compassionate touch.

Dr. Shanna Jack
Dr. Chris Buckley
and welcoming
Dr. Melinda Kelley

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
Accepting New Patients

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
594 10th St, Plainwell
(269) 685-5894
New Extended Hours
8:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:30pm M-F

Lane Soft Water
"Take it from an authority"
PRO's PICK®
The Professional's Choice Water Softener Solar Salt
673-3272
132 Grand Street
Allegan

NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
City of Allegan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Allegan, Michigan, shall on February 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers, Allegan City Hall 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, Michigan, hold a public hearing on the following item(s):

1. Ordinance 525 to amend Section 402.01 Table of Uses and Section 1707.33 of the City of Allegan Zoning Ordinance to Allow Temporary Marijuana Events.
2. Ordinance 526 to amend Section 31-10 of the Allegan City Code to Provide a Regulatory Authorization Process for Temporary Marijuana Events.

At that time and place, the City Council shall hear and consider comments, concerns, statements, information, or other communications concerning the proposed amendment to the City of Allegan Code of Ordinances. Please send all written comments to the address listed below. Comments can also be sent to mkleehammer@cityofallegan.org by 5:00PM on February 10, 2025.

Allegan City Hall is barrier free. The City of Allegan will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities, such as signers for hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at a city meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring such services should contact the City Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

City of Allegan
231 Trowbridge Street
Allegan MI 49010
(269) 673-5511
BY: Michaela Kleehammer, City Clerk

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